



**5772 – 2011-12**

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# Temple Israel Vision for Education



צַדִּיקִים אֲהָרִים

*In the  
Image of God*

מִשְׁמֵרָה

*Tradition*

בְּמִשְׁפָּחָה

*Family*

אֲהַבְתִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל

*Love of Israel*

לְשׁוֹן הָרִדְיוֹשׁ

*Hebrew Language*

בְּעִלְיוֹת חֲסִדִּים

*Acts of Kindness*

**T**emple Israel of Great Neck is a diverse, pluralistic, egalitarian congregation dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong Jewish learning, connection to God, and devotion to Torah, Israel and *Klal Yisrael* (the Jewish people). Guided by the principles of the Conservative movement, we seek to model and inspire a commitment to Jewish living and to the discovery of the joy, meaning and relevance of Judaism in our everyday lives.

we observe *mitzvot* (commandments), engage in meaningful *shlichah* (prayer), and participate in Jewish life. We strive to create a *khillah* (community) of children and adults who feel confident as Jews in the world at large, and who contribute to the vitality of the Jewish people.

**O**ur goal is to develop programs that foster multigenerational learning, seed powerful Jewish memories, reach beyond the classroom into the lives of our congregants, and cultivate Jewish souls. Through creative, stimulating and interactive methodologies, we seek to impart the necessary skills to

**R**ecalizing the importance of proficiency in Hebrew and ritual skills, we believe that Jewish ethics and moral values are equally foundational to leading a meaningful Jewish life. Temple Israel provides opportunities for its members to live these values through the active pursuit of *mitzvot* such as *Gemilat Chasadim* (deeds of loving-kindness) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).

**A**t Temple Israel, we welcome and seek to provide a spiritual home for every member, regardless of age, background or interests. We embrace our congregants' cultural diversity and foster opportunities to share a rich array of Jewish customs and cultures. We also recognize the diversity of learning styles and needs of our students, and hence the need to develop responsive, flexible programming.

**H**atikvah—the hope—of our comprehensive educational program, is to forge an unbreakable bond between our congregation, *Klal Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel).

עֲבַדוּ אֱתֵי ה'

בְּשִׂמְחָה

*Serve God with joy*

תְּלַמְּדוּ תּוֹרָה

*Study of Torah*

חֲבִיבִים כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל

*All Israel are Friends*

בְּצִדָּה

*Mitzvot*

פָּתַח לָנוּ שַׁעַר

*Open the Gates*

תְּקַן עוֹלָם

*Repairing the World*

*"The task of the synagogue today is not only to hold Jewish services. It is rather to provide a medium for expressing all aspects of Jewish life, for strengthening Jewish feelings and tradition and for ensuring the transmission of our heritage to another generation."*

—Mordecai Waxman

Rabbi Emeritus

August 1947

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# **TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENTS HANDBOOK**

*Shalom and Welcome to the TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL!*

Temple Israel Religious School has repeatedly been recognized for its outstanding and innovative programming by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The Religious School participated in Project ReImagine, a UJA Federation-sponsored initiative to generate renewal and innovation in synagogue religious schools, and strives to continuously “re-imagine” Jewish education through our participation in the Coalition of Innovating Congregations. Our educational vision is printed on the inside cover of this Handbook.

This Handbook provides an overview of our curriculum, activities, policies and programs. These are the vital components that will enable your child to participate in all aspects of Jewish life and form a strong and positive bond with the Jewish community. We welcome the active participation of parents, working together as partners with the school, to ensure the cultural literacy and continued vibrancy of the Jewish people through education. We look forward to a successful and exciting year.

## **GOALS STATEMENT**

Temple Israel Religious School seeks to:

- Inspire its students and their families to engage in life-long Jewish learning and participation in Jewish life;
- Help its students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the life of the Jewish people at home, in the synagogue and in the community at large;
- Instill in its students a strong sense of identification with the Jewish people, Conservative Judaism, and Israel; and
- Help them develop a strong moral compass based on the eternal values of the Torah and of our sacred texts.

Since these goals impact the cognitive, affective and moral development of its students, Temple Israel’s program is not limited solely to academics, but also involves Shabbat and holiday worship, experiential programs, art, music and family education. Parents are vital partners with the school in supporting its overall goals, and in fostering an environment in which Jewish education and practice are valued.

Temple Israel Religious School firmly embraces the philosophy and approach of the Conservative movement, including egalitarianism, recognition of the continuing development of *halakhah* (Jewish law), and a critical approach to the interpretation of biblical texts.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The school's program rests on the three classic pillars of Jewish living first formulated in *Pirkei Avot*:

- **Torah** – learning our sacred texts, history, customs and traditions.
- **Avodah** – worship, the development of a relationship with God and a spiritual sense; and the acquisition of sufficient Hebrew skills to participate in Jewish prayer.
- **G'milut Chasadim** – deeds of compassion; the cultivation of a sense of responsibility towards others, and an impulse to engage in *tikkun ha-olam* – the repair of the world.

To accomplish these goals, the school must continue to provide a program of significant Jewish learning, which requires attendance and achievement standards. The Religious School offers a seven-year graded curriculum in the following areas:

**Hebrew Language** – the Hebrew program focuses on reading fluency as well as comprehension of a core vocabulary connected to everyday classroom activities, *chaggim* (holidays) and *t'fillah* (prayer). Two levels of modern/conversational Hebrew are offered to *Dalet-Vav* (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) students. Cursive Hebrew writing is also taught, with a special emphasis on the ability to sign one's name in Hebrew.

**T'fillah (Prayer)** – *T'fillah* is at the heart of our curriculum. It is taught in the classroom weekly through the use of engaging activities and textbooks, and through the experience of weekly group *t'fillah* sessions led by our clergy and senior school directors during school, as well as through the *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program, Junior Congregation and *Machon* services. Students in *Bet-Hay* (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) will be able to reinforce their Hebrew reading and prayer skills through the use of interactive CD's at home. All Religious School families also receive a set of CD's recorded by Cantor Frieder containing all the *t'fillot* in our curriculum.

In addition, *Torah* and *Haftarah trope* (cantillation) are taught in the *Hay* and *Vav* years (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades). Students are expected to become familiar with the key prayers and structure of the Shabbat services, with a focus on *Shkharit*, Torah Service, and the concluding prayers, as well as prayers and blessings for Shabbat and holiday home rituals. Highlights of the weekday, *Kabbalat Shabbat*, *Shabbat Ma'ariv* and *Musaf* services are also taught. *Vav* students and their parents have the option of participating in an extracurricular enrichment class called the *T'fillah Enrichment Program* (TEP), taught by Cantor Frieder. Students in TEP learn the full *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, and are qualified to conduct that service on the Friday evening before their bar/bat mitzvah.

**Holidays and Mitzvot** – throughout the grades students learn about the meaning, history, laws and customs pertaining to each of the Jewish holidays. Each year the students' knowledge of the blessings, prayers, symbols, terminology and concepts associated with each holiday is deepened and expanded. Through classroom learning, special holiday programs in the school, holiday-related art projects, as well as through the synagogue's holiday services and programs for children, the Religious School seeks to instill in its students a sense of the joy and excitement surrounding the celebration of the holidays. In the *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade) year, students study the Jewish lifecycle, culminating in a program in which the students re-enact lifecycle highlights.

**History** – students gain a familiarity with major Jewish heroes and events from Biblical to modern times, with an emphasis on character and peoplehood. *Ahavat Yisrael* – the love of Israel – is inculcated in our students at all levels. Israel is integrated into the curriculum of all the grades through song, Hebrew language, special school-wide projects for *Yom Ha'atzma-ut*, and our participation in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade. A comprehensive survey of Jewish history is begun in the *Vav* (6<sup>th</sup> grade) year and completed when students are in the *Zayin* (7<sup>th</sup> grade) year in the Youth House. *Vav* students are also introduced to the *Shoah* (the Holocaust) through the annual *Kristallnacht* program, and *Dalet-Vav* (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade) students are encouraged to attend the annual *Yom Hashoah* commemoration.

**Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures)** – Understanding of the major characters and narratives of the Torah is achieved through Bible stories or weekly *Parashat Hashavua* discussions. In the *Dalet* classes (4<sup>th</sup> grade) the curriculum includes study of the most important figures and events of the *N'vi'im* (Prophets), while the *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade) classes study *B'reisheet* (Genesis) together with classic and modern commentaries. The *Vav* classes (6<sup>th</sup> grade) conduct an in-depth study of the book of *Sh'mot* (Exodus), leading to participation in the annual *Hidon Hatorah*, or Bible Contest, sponsored by METNY (the Metropolitan New York District of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism). While students will gain an appreciation for commentary and *Midrash*, they will understand that such interpretations reflect purely human creativity, and will learn to clearly differentiate between the actual text of the *Tanakh* and its interpretations.

**Jewish Values and Ethics** – Through text study, discussion and participation in ongoing *Tzedakah* and *G'milut Chasadim* projects by all grades throughout the school year, we endeavor to inculcate in our students the values inherent in Judaism and to help them be actively involved in *Tikkun Olam*. The *Vav* students research, select and execute individual Mitzvah projects in preparation for their B'nai Mitzvah. The Religious School seeks to instill in its students the vocabulary of Jewish values (e.g. knowledge of, and ability to correctly use, the specific traditional Jewish terminology relating to each ethical action) as well as the habit of behaving according to the moral dictates of Judaism. These goals are regularly reinforced through a school-wide program called “Mitzvah of the Month.” Individual class mitzvah projects are tied to values taught in the “Mitzvah of the Month” program, as are many of the children’s activity sessions and adult learning sessions in the *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program.

## **TEMPLE ISRAEL STANDARDS OF JEWISH EDUCATION**

Temple Israel of Great Neck remains steadfast in its commitment to the Jewish education of all its members, as outlined in the Temple Israel Vision for Education. We take to heart our mission to educate the next generation of Conservative Jews. To this end, Temple Israel member families with Religious School aged children are invited and encouraged to enroll in Religious School; engage in the synagogue community, and participate in the numerous Shabbat, holiday, and family education opportunities outlined in the TIGN Passport to Jewish Family Life.

As of September 2008, Temple Israel of Great Neck implemented its innovative, compelling educational model for Religious School education, a culmination of the synagogue’s extensive

participation in the UJA Project ReImagine. We emphasize classroom learning, shared family Shabbat and holiday experiences, as well as other family education opportunities; students' *t'fillah* (prayer) experiences; professional development for teachers; and ongoing evaluation of all aspects of education. In order to prepare our students to be knowledgeable Jews, and to engage in Jewish community life as they grow, we expect our students to participate in at least six continuous years of Jewish education.

#### Programs of Jewish Education Endorsed by Temple Israel:

In order for your child to be eligible to receive Bar/Bat Mitzvah training and celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel, you must be a member in good standing at Temple Israel, and your child must be *enrolled in and attending* one of the following programs:

- Temple Israel Religious School;
- An accredited Jewish Day school or Yeshiva;
- The Gahalet Israeli School;
- Private tutoring (only for students with demonstrable special needs);
- Any of the above programs through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and either the Waxman Hebrew High School or the JTS Ivry Prozdor program during seventh grade.

All of our students, regardless of the program of Jewish education in which they enroll, are expected to participate in our congregation's service and Family Education opportunities as set out in the TIGN Passport to Jewish Family Life - e.g. attending a minimum of 8 *T'fillah* (prayer) encounters and 5 Family Education experiences with a parent during the year.

### **TEMPLE ISRAEL REQUIREMENTS FOR BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

#### Minimum Years of Jewish Education Required by Temple Israel:

*Eligibility for Bar/Bat Mitzvah training requires a minimum of six years of uninterrupted formal Jewish education, including the year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah instruction, meaning that students **must be enrolled in the Religious School or other formal program of Jewish education by the time they begin second grade.** Educational requirements may be fulfilled through any of the programs specified in the "Temple Israel Standards of Jewish Education" found in the Parents' Handbook and in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook.*

All students enrolled in Temple Israel's Religious School must satisfy school attendance requirements in order to be eligible for Bar/Bat Mitzvah training. Additionally, students who:

- Complete the *Zayin* (7<sup>th</sup> grade) class prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah must be officially enrolled in and attending the Waxman Hebrew High School program at the time of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah, *even if they have already completed six or more years of Jewish education;*
- Have celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvah prior to the completion of the *Zayin* year are expected to complete the *Zayin* year, *even if they have already completed six or more years of Jewish education;*

- Leave a Jewish Day School or Yeshiva at any point prior to the completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to continue their Jewish education, uninterrupted, in a format to be determined with the Religious School administration on a case-by-case basis.

Cooperation and Compliance:

In an effort to foster communication, participation, and accountability in keeping with our synagogue's Vision for Education, the Religious School, Youth House and Temple Israel agree that, where appropriate, the synagogue and school will undertake to communicate with families when issues of concern arise. Such communications may include:

- a) Calling students' homes where patterns of absenteeism from school and/or Shabbat and family programs are noted;
- b) Requesting a conference with the student and family;
- c) Withholding assignment of Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony dates until/unless discernible good faith efforts are made to meet Religious School and Temple Israel standards;
- d) Delay or suspension of Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparatory tutoring;
- e) Withdrawal and/or reassignment of previously-assigned date for Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL POLICY ON OUTSIDE TUTORING**

It remains the mission of Temple Israel to educate the next generation of Conservative Jews. To this end, Temple Israel member families with Religious School aged children are invited and encouraged to enroll in Religious School; engage in the synagogue community; and participate in the numerous Shabbat and family education requirements outlined in the TIGN Passport to Jewish Family Life.

**Private tutoring does not satisfy the educational requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel, except in cases of demonstrable special needs.** This policy reflects the understanding that peer group learning experiences are vital to students' social and religious development and to the continuity of Jewish communal life.

Students with demonstrable special needs may be permitted to receive private tutoring in place of all or part of Religious School classes. In order to receive such permission, parents should provide the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or equivalent documentation to the Religious School Director. All such information provided will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Students previously enrolled in Jewish day schools are required to continue their Jewish education, uninterrupted, in a format to be determined with the Religious School administration on a case-by-case basis.

## SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND HOURS

The Religious School's ability to provide a serious, high-quality program of Jewish education rests on its 2-day, 5 hours/week of classroom time combined with family participation on Shabbat and Holidays and in Family Education programs.

***Nitzanim (Kindergarten)*** classes are offered Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon, **or** Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-6:30 p.m. (2 ½ hour sessions). All classes are contingent on enrollment.

***Kitot Alef through Vav (1<sup>st</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grades)*** meet twice a week for a total of five hours: (Sundays 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon and Tuesdays 4:00-6:30 p.m.; **or** Mondays 4:00-6:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 4:00-6:30 p.m.)

***Zayin (7<sup>th</sup> grade)*** classes meet twice a week from 4:00-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, for a total of five hours, at the Youth House. For registration materials and information on the curriculum, contact Danny Mishkin, Youth House Director: 516-482-7800, ext. 2106.

IN ADDITION, FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES AND FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE NEW SCHOOL MODEL. Family Education programs are scheduled both during and outside of classroom instruction hours. Participation in these programs is as essential to fulfilling the synagogue's new vision of Jewish education as school attendance. See pages 7-8 for details.

## ATTENDANCE

In order for your child to have a successful and positive experience in Religious School, regular attendance is necessary. Form letters to a child's public school are available if a child participates in an extracurricular activity and needs to be excused on Religious School days. When an absence is unavoidable, it is generally possible to arrange for your child to attend a different Religious School class in the same grade on another day.

Students are expected to make up all missed work. Bar and Bat Mitzvah training and observance are predicated on a record of consistent attendance at Religious School. The school office or teacher will notify parents when their child has been absent from two consecutive classes. Missing Religious School or arriving late because of an extracurricular activity does not constitute an excused absence. Excused absences (doctor's appointment, illness, death in family, family *simchah*) require a written note from a parent or medical personnel.

It is very important that students attend both days of school. Children who chronically miss one day a week usually fall behind and struggle to keep up with the class. Students need to be present for a minimum of 80% of their classes in order to be eligible for the attendance award. In addition, in order to be eligible for the two highest honors, Judaic Scholar and Keter Torah,

students must have an outstanding record of attendance in Religious School (90% or better). In an effort to encourage good attendance, the school will continue to reward all students with 80% or better attendance, and those with 90% or better attendance will be listed in the Voice.

### **SHABBAT PROGRAMS AND SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE**

***Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah***, a major component of the new model of the school, is a lively, engaging, family Shabbat program that offers several age-appropriate services for parents and children, smaller activity groups for children and relevant adult learning or discussion formats for parents. During this school year the program will be offered once a month, sometimes on Shabbat mornings, sometimes on Shabbat afternoons and sometimes on Friday evenings, including Shabbat dinner. Families are encouraged to participate as often as possible.

**Junior Congregation** – Except when there is *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program on a Shabbat morning, Junior Congregation is held on Shabbat and Yom Tov mornings for children in *Nitzanim* through *Dalet* (Kdg.-4<sup>th</sup> grade) classes. Older children are always welcome in Junior Congregation, as well, and receive service attendance credit whenever they attend with a parent. Junior Congregation is led by Michael Sloyer, and meets in the *Beit Midrash* (small chapel) from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Whenever there is a *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program in the morning, Junior Congregation is incorporated into the program. Each grade from *Nitzanim* through *Dalet* is scheduled once a year to “lead” a number of the prayers during Junior Congregation.

**Machon Family Service** – The Machon Family Service for students in *Hay-Zayin* (grades 5-7) and their parents is offered once a month on select dates when there is no *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program. Whenever there is a *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program, the Machon service is incorporated into the program. The *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and *Vav* (6<sup>th</sup> grade) classes are each offered an opportunity to lead the Machon service once each year. Both the *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* program and the Machon service are vehicles through which the students learn to participate in and lead the regular Shabbat morning service. They are also the settings in which B’nai Mitzvah students and their parents can practice the specific skills they will need for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. A schedule is mailed to Machon families twice a year, and regular reminders will be sent via e-mail.

**Preschool Shabbat Service** - Temple Israel also offers an engaging Tot Shabbat program for preschoolers and their parents every Shabbat and Yom Tov morning. The preschool service is led by Ronnie Katz and is held in Classroom 1 in the school wing from 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Shabbat and Holiday Service Attendance** – Service attendance is a significant part of the new school model. All students in *Nitzanim-Zayin* (grades K-7), including members’ children who are not enrolled in the Religious School, are expected to attend a minimum of **8** “*T’fillah* experiences” or Shabbat or Holiday services at Temple Israel with a parent during the year. Credit is earned whenever a child participates in a Temple Israel service together with at least one parent or grandparent, for a minimum of 1 hour. The credit system and exact dates of the various Temple Israel services are enumerated in a separate document called “TIGN Passport to Jewish Family Life” which is distributed to all Temple families at the start of the school year.

In order for your family to receive credit for their participation, you will need to “sticker in” to the attendance binders located on a cart just outside the small chapel. Separate attendance binders are provided each time there is a *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* or Machon service. Service attendance will be noted on the report cards, and letters will be sent home twice a year to inform parents of their child’s standing in relation to service attendance.

### **FAMILY EDUCATION**

Family involvement is a cornerstone of the new model of the school. In addition to regular participation in Shabbat and holiday services, all families are asked to select at least **5** Family Education programs (as distinct from family services such as *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah*, Junior Congregation or *Machon*):

**Family Education Programs** are offered throughout the year to educate parents and their children together and give them a forum to discuss and experience Jewish practice and tradition. Some of these programs are specific to a particular grade, and others are open to the entire congregation. More than 20 such programs are scheduled already, and additional programs may be added as the year progresses. Families are expected to participate in a minimum of five such programs during the school year. “Family attendance” is met whenever at least one parent and one child from a family participate in an event. A list of scheduled family programs can be found in the TIGN Passport to Jewish Family Life.

### **GRADE COHORTS/SCHOOL T’FILLAH LEADERS**

For group activities such as *t’fillah* (prayer) sessions during school and *Shabbatot Ha-Mishpachah* (Family Shabbats), students are divided into three grade cohort groups. During school each cohort is led in a weekly *t’fillah* session by one of the clergy:

**Bonim** (“Builders”) - *Nitzanim* through *Bet* (Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) – led by Rabbi Klirs  
**Chaverim** (“Friends”) - *Gimmel* through *Dalet* (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade) – led by Rabbi Stecker  
**Machon** (“Foundation”) - *Hay* through *Vav* (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade) – led by Rabbi Adelson or Cantor Frieder

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

PROCEDURES FOR DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILDREN:

1. Enter the parking lot and pull up to the curb in front of the entrance, between the cones. **Do not drop your child(ren) off in the parking lot, as this forces them to cross the parking lot when traffic is moving.**
2. If the fire lane is full, pull into a spot and park. **Escort your children to the curb.**
3. Do not drop your children off on Old Mill Rd. It is a busy street with no sidewalk on the synagogue side of the street.

4. Kindergarteners should be escorted into the building and into their classroom either by a responsible adult or an older sibling (in 4<sup>th</sup> grade or above).

#### PROCEDURES FOR PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN:

1. **Students in Hay-Vav (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)** are allowed to wait for their parents in the patio area. Their teachers will escort them outside, wait with them and supervise them. *Hay-Vav* students who have younger siblings in the school are permitted to pick their siblings up in the classrooms and escort them outside. ***Students must stay with their carpool group or class until picked up. Running around or rough housing will not be tolerated.*** *After one warning, students who continue to engage in this unsafe behavior will be sent inside, where their parents or carpool driver must pick them up.* (Parents who prefer to pick up their *Hay-Vav* students inside the building may do so. Simply instruct your child(ren) to wait for you in the lobby.)
2. **Students in Dalet (4<sup>th</sup> grade)** will be taken to the alcove area of the lobby by their teachers at dismissal time, where their teachers will wait with them until they have been picked up. *Dalet* students with younger siblings or carpool buddies may pick them up in the classrooms and bring them to the alcove area of the lobby to wait. *Dalet* students with older siblings or carpool buddies may be picked up and taken out to the patio area by their siblings or carpool buddies.
3. **Students in Nitzanim-Gimmel (K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade)** must wait in the classrooms with their teachers until parents or carpool drivers come in to pick them up. The only exceptions will be for those children who have siblings or carpool buddies in grades *Dalet* or above. The older siblings or carpool buddies may come to the classrooms of the younger students and take them to the lobby or the patio area. If the oldest sibling or carpool member is in *Dalet*, the children are to wait in the lobby. If the oldest is in *Hay-Vav*, they may wait outside.
4. **No student will be allowed to cross the parking lot without an adult.** Teachers and security personnel have been instructed to prevent students from attempting to cross on their own. Parents may pull up along the curb to pick up their children, or may park in a parking spot. If they park in the lot, they must get out of the car, collect their children at the curb and escort them to the car. **Please DO NOT instruct or call for your children to cross the parking lot to meet you.**
5. **Students are not to go beyond the sidewalk in front of the Multipurpose Room** when waiting to be picked up. They must wait until their car has pulled up closer to the main entrance.
6. **Please make every effort to drop off and pick up your children on time.** Any children still not picked up by 10 minutes after dismissal time should be brought to the school office to call their parents, and wait there until they are picked up.

#### SAFETY AND CONSIDERATION

1. **Please do not cut into the pick-up lane** from elsewhere in the parking lot.
2. **Please drive slowly and cautiously** through the parking lot.
3. **Please do not instruct your child(ren) to wait for you** on Old Mill Road, in the parking

lot itself or in any other non-authorized place.

4. **Cross the parking lot safely:** When escorting young children across the parking lot, we recommend that the adult and children all hold hands and form a chain.
5. **Keep the pick-up lane moving:** as soon as the car in front of you pulls out or moves ahead, please move up and close the gap quickly.
6. **Please cooperate fully with the security personnel** and the teachers, and instruct your children to do the same.

#### IF YOU NEED TO PICK YOUR CHILD UP EARLY

Parents who wish to pick their children up early must provide a note to the teacher to that effect. If a student does not have a note, s/he must call home from the school office for permission. Teachers are not to send the children outside. Parents must pick them up in the classroom.

### DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT

All students at Temple Israel Religious School are entitled to receive an education in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Based on the principles of *kavod* (honor, respect) and *derekh erez* (good manners), students are expected to respect the rights and property of others. Teachers will employ the best classroom management techniques for maintaining appropriate classroom discipline. All classroom personnel are expected to support the school's policy of maintaining an appropriate and considerate learning environment, to make their expectations clear to the students, and to keep parents informed as needed.

A) If a student displays inappropriate or disruptive behavior, the school will take the following steps, as deemed necessary:

1. The teacher will speak with the student and try to obtain the student's commitment to comply with the rules.
2. If, despite the teacher's best efforts, inappropriate behavior persists, the teacher will fill in a Removal from Class form, and the student will be escorted to the School Director's office. The Removal from Class form will be placed in the student's permanent file. The student will need to demonstrate an understanding of why s/he was sent out of class. S/he may not return until the class period is over. The student will be warned that the next time s/he is sent out of class, his/her parents will be called.
3. If there is a further incident of inappropriate or disruptive behavior, the teacher will fill in a Removal from Class form, and the student will be escorted to the School Director's office. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted. The Removal from Class form and a record of the conversation with the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be placed in the student's permanent file. The student will be made to understand why s/he was sent out of class, and may not return until the class period is over. The student will be warned that the next time s/he is sent out of class, s/he will not be readmitted to class again without a parent present.
4. If there is a third offense within the same academic semester, the teacher will fill in a Removal from Class form, and the student will be escorted to the School Director's

office. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted. The Removal from Class form and a record of the conversation with the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be placed in the student's permanent file. The student will not be readmitted to class again without a parent present. A parent or guardian must remain with the student during the next class session.

5. From that point onward, each time the student is disruptive, step 4 will be repeated.

B) In the event of violations of a more serious nature, including physical contact, lewd or obscene behaviors, gestures or language, malicious destruction of property, teasing, bullying, threatening or other forms of verbal abuse, yelling, or arguing with the teacher:

1. The teacher will fill in a Removal from Class form, and the student will be escorted to the School Director's office. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called immediately, and the student must relate the incident to the parents in the presence of the School Director. The parent must then come and pick the student up. The Removal from Class form and a record of the conversation with the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be placed in the student's permanent file.
2. The student will not be readmitted to class without a parent or guardian accompanying him or her. A parent or guardian must stay in class for a minimum of two consecutive class sessions (or more if the School Director deems it necessary).

The following Code of Conduct, Dress Code and Cell Phone Policy are sent home prior to the beginning of the school year. In order to create a safe, positive learning environment for our students, parents are requested to read this Code of Conduct. We recommend that parents explain this code, as well as its consequences, to their children before school starts, in order to minimize the necessity of disciplinary measures.

### **Temple Israel Religious School Code of Conduct**

I agree to abide by the code of conduct and the dress code of the Religious School at all times as long as I am a student at the Religious School. I agree to:

- 1) Respect the rights and property of others, including the right of other students to learn,
- 2) Follow my teachers' and principal's instructions, class rules and school dress code (listed below),
- 3) Arrive in class on time, and remain in the classroom and on school property unless given permission to leave (such as to go to the bathroom), in which case I will go directly to my destination and return directly to class as quickly as possible,
- 4) Come to class prepared with paper, pencil, books, and completed homework assignments,
- 5) Try my best to do all class work, and ask for help when there's something I don't understand,
- 6) Not insult, put down or offend my fellow students or teachers,
- 7) Keep my cell phone and any other electronic devices turned off and out of sight during class time.
- 8) Refrain from calling out, interrupting the teacher or interrupting other students,
- 9) Refrain from yelling, screaming or otherwise making loud and inappropriate noises,
- 10) Refrain from teasing, bullying, or threatening other students or adults,
- 11) Refrain from arguing with the teacher or other adults,

- 12) Not use profane, vulgar, or abusive language or gestures,
- 13) Not engage in violent behavior (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching, etc.) or threaten such behavior,
- 14) Not damage the synagogue's or anyone else's property or possessions,
- 15) Not touch, use or take anyone else's possessions without permission, and
- 16) Not throw anything inside the building.

### **Temple Israel Religious School Dress Code**

As a *makom kadosh* (holy place) devoted to the values of Torah, Temple Israel Religious School seeks to promote an atmosphere of *kavod* (respect) throughout our building. Jewish tradition emphasizes the importance of *tz'niut*, or modesty, in one's comportment and dress. In keeping with these values, Temple Israel Religious School has adopted the following dress code.

During Religious School, a student's dress, grooming and appearance shall:

1. Be safe and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Include footwear appropriate to the activity. (Please note that flip-flops and high heels can be hazardous.)
3. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, or libelous, or that denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
4. Not promote or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
5. Be appropriate for a religious setting, including the following:
  - a. No undergarments showing.
  - b. No midriff showing.
  - c. No strapless or excessively low-cut tops, spaghetti straps, or sleeveless undershirts.
  - d. Sleeveless mesh sports jerseys cannot be worn without a shirt underneath.
  - e. Boys must wear *kippot* at all times, and girls are encouraged to wear them. Hats may not be substituted for *kippot*.

On Shabbat and Jewish holidays, all of the above rules apply. In addition, students are asked to:

1. Wear nicer slacks, capris or skirts - no jeans, sweat pants, shorts, cut-offs, or torn pants.
2. Wear a blouse or collared shirt with sleeves - no tee shirts, sweat shirts or sleeveless tops.
3. Wear appropriate footwear - no slippers or ripped tennis shoes.

### **Temple Israel Religious School Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and kept out of sight during class time. If students are seen using these devices during school time they will be told to turn them off and put them away. If they do not comply, the teacher will confiscate the device and it will have to be retrieved at the end of class. If the device is subsequently seen again, it will be confiscated, and a parent will have to pick it up at the school office. We recognize that parents decide whether their children should have a cell phone. Our rules are designed to enhance the safety and maximize the learning of all of our students. If a child needs to contact a parent, the school office will always provide the means to do so.

## **EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION**

In the event of inclement weather, Temple Israel Religious School will close if Great Neck Public Schools (GNPS) close. In addition, whenever GNPS after-school activities are cancelled due to weather conditions, Temple Israel Religious School will automatically be closed. If GNPS delay opening, but are open in the afternoon, Temple Israel Religious School will be open. Closings and after school cancellations for the Great Neck school district will be announced on the GNPS's website: [www.greatneck.k12.ny.us](http://www.greatneck.k12.ny.us), and on the following radio stations and TV channels: radio stations WINS-AM 1010, WHLI-AM 1100, WALK-FM 97.5, WKJY-FM 98.3, WBAB-FM 102.3 and WBLI-FM 106.1; and TV stations Network Channel 5; Cablevision Channels 12 and 75. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THESE RADIO OR TV STATIONS.

If inclement weather or dangerous road conditions should develop late in the afternoon on a school day, we may decide to close Religious School. In that case, all the Great Neck Public Schools will be informed and asked to broadcast the closing announcement to the students. The closing will also be announced on Cablevision Channel 12, and on Channel 12's web site: [www.news12.com](http://www.news12.com), as well as on IO Channel 612, and will be on the outgoing message on the main phone line at Temple Israel. Parents may call the Temple office to confirm. When possible, every effort will be made to inform parents via e-mail as well, but that may not always be possible, due to power outages or the closure of our building.

In the event of severe weather on a Saturday night or Sunday morning, the school closing will be announced on Cablevision Channel 12, on Channel 12's web site, and on IO Channel 612, as well as on the outgoing message on the main phone line at Temple Israel. Please be aware that we will endeavor to remain open whenever possible.

## **HEALTH CONCERNS**

Parents are requested to notify the school office of any medical condition or medication taken which can affect their children's performance or behavior during school hours. Parents are asked to indicate any medical, emotional or learning needs that their children may have on the registration form, so that the school can better meet your child's needs. If your child has a medical condition that necessitates emergency medication, please speak with the School Director before school begins. In the event that a student becomes ill or manifests a potentially contagious condition during school hours, the School Director will contact the parents, and determine whether or not the student may remain in school.

## **SNACKS AND KASHRUT**

The school will provide a healthy, kosher snack each day of class. Snack time will be utilized to teach the blessings for various foods and *birkat ha-mazon* (the blessings after a meal), as well as Hebrew vocabulary. Each day of school students will be offered some form of bread, water, and one of the following items: whole wheat pretzels, whole grain rice cakes, low fat corn pops or

baked potato/vegetable sticks, or Cheerios. These items have been carefully selected to make sure they meet high standards of nutrition and *Kashrut*, and do not contain common allergens. However, parents can always choose to send their own snack if they like, as long as it is packaged and certified kosher. Bottled water, fresh fruit or vegetables may also be brought in. No home-baked or prepared foods may be brought to Religious School. If there is a question about any food in particular, check with the School Director before sending it to school. While our school does not guarantee that we are a 100% nut-free facility, we ask that you not send in anything containing nuts for snacks, since several children in the school are highly allergic to nuts. Please be aware that the snack provided by the school is not meant to be a meal. Your children are likely to be hungry on weekdays when arriving straight from public school. We encourage parents to supplement what the school provides with a nutritious, kosher, more substantial snack.

### **TIKKUN OLAM/TZEDAKAH (Service to Others)**

**Tzedakah:** Children are asked to make small monetary donations to charity in class on a regular basis. Occasionally, gifts or donations of food or other items may also be collected for distribution to those in need. Families are encouraged to participate with their children.

**Grade Level and School-Wide Mitzvah Projects:** Each Religious School grade participates in a specific *Chesed* (kindness) or *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) project connected to one of the year's "Mitzvah of the Month" values. These mitzvah projects are intended to be hands-on experiences, and whenever possible, are coordinated with larger Temple-wide projects in conjunction with the Temple's Chesed Committee. In addition, there are occasional school-wide projects in which all grades participate.

**Vav Mitzvah Projects:** As part of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah requirements, during their *Vav* (6<sup>th</sup> grade) year, students research and select a meaningful Mitzvah project in which they commit to volunteering their own time and resources to benefit those in need. At the end of the school year they write up the results of their projects and share them with their class. Students are encouraged to speak about their mitzvah projects at their B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies. Students who devote significant time to their projects and do satisfactorily complete their final class presentation are eligible to earn the *Sherut*, or service, award.

### **HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

**Report Cards** are mailed home at the end of each semester, in January and in June. Academic achievement, behavior/participation, the number of Shabbat or holiday services attended, and the number of Family Education Programs completed will be noted. In addition, the school will send home quarterly service and Family Education attendance reports, in order to help families track their progress.

**Parent-School Communication:** parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled at the parents' request at any time. Teachers are asked to communicate regularly with their students' parents via

e-mail and/or phone. If parents have questions or concerns they are encouraged to share them directly with the teacher, before bringing the matter to the attention of the School Director or the chairs of the Religious School Education Committee, Miriam Kobliner, 829-3444, [kobliner@optonline.net](mailto:kobliner@optonline.net) or Rachel Geula, 466-0667, [rokhsar@aol.com](mailto:rokhsar@aol.com).

**Class Lists** with the name, address and telephone numbers of each child in the class will be distributed soon after the beginning of the school year.

**School-Wide Announcements via List Serve** – parents will be kept informed regularly of developments in the school via e-mail. Please watch your e-mail for important school updates, as this will be the sole form of communication from the school for most information.

## RESOURCES

**Library** - There is a library in the Religious School for the use of students, teachers and parents. The library is equipped with a great many reference books, as well as age appropriate circulation books. A Librarian/Resource Specialist is available two days a week (usually Sun. and Mon.).

**Tutorial/Special Needs** - Individual tutorials or small groups are available during school hours to provide enrichment or remediation to students who may need it, at a small additional surcharge. The Tutoring Coordinator works closely with the teachers, tutors and parents to identify children with special learning needs and to ensure that they are placed with the appropriate tutor or enrichment class. Parents of children with more serious learning, physical or emotional disabilities are encouraged to speak to the School Director to make special arrangements for their children.

**Arts Enrichment** - Specialists offer many art and music projects related to the curriculum in order to enhance and reinforce what the students are learning. Weekly music classes are provided for students in *Nitzanim* (Kindergarten) through *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade). A *Zimriya*, or song festival, in which each class performs several Hebrew or Jewish songs is held in conjunction with the end-of-school assemblies.

Each grade makes its own special keepsake ritual objects. *Nitzanim* students make *chanukiot*; *Alef* (1<sup>st</sup> grade) students make *challah* covers; *Bet* (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) students make Shabbat candlesticks; *Gimmel* students make *siddur* covers; *Dalet* (4<sup>th</sup> grade) students decorate *Pesach* pillow cases for use at the seder. *Machon* students all work on a major ritual object or class Judaic project: *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade) students each create their own beautiful Tallit, and parents are invited to join them in an orientation workshop and a *tzitzit*-tying workshop. *Vav* students create a class *wimple*, or Torah binder, which is used to bind the Torah that these students read from at their B'nai Mitzvah.

## GRADE LEVEL FAMILY PROGRAMS/MILESTONE CEREMONIES

***Reisheet Khochmah*** (“The Beginning of Wisdom”) held in conjunction with the holiday of

*Simchat Torah* in the fall, is a ceremony in which we welcome our *Nitzanim* (Kindergarten) students to the joy of Jewish learning.

The *Nitzanim* families also participate in an interactive **Chanukah workshop**.

**The Alef Hebrew Name Program** celebrates the achievement of our *Alef* (1<sup>st</sup> grade) students in learning how to print their names in Hebrew. Together with their parents they research the origin of their Hebrew names and create a beautiful name plaque.

**The Bet Family Pesach Workshop** provides a fun and interactive way for Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) students and their parents to prepare for the *seder* by creating ritual objects and games to enhance their *seder* experience.

**Bet Consecration** is held at the end of each school year to celebrate the accomplishment of our Bet students in mastering the mechanics of Hebrew reading.

**The Gimmel Kabbalat Siddur** (“Receiving the Siddur”) ceremony recognizes the special achievement of our *Gimmel* (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) students in learning prayers in Hebrew. At the end of the ceremony, each student is presented with an inscribed copy of *Siddur Shema Yisrael*.

**Kosher Kwest** is a new family education program to teach the basic principles of the laws of *kashrut* to **Dalet** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) students and their parents, through games and competition.

**The Dalet Chanukah Family Workshop** helps prepare families for Chanukah through a variety of activities, including crafts, cooking and competitions.

**The Hay Tallit Workshops** provide *Hay* (5<sup>th</sup> grade) students and their parents in-depth instruction on the origins and meaning of the mitzvah of wearing *tzitzit*, or fringes, along with hands-on experience in actually making their own beautiful *tallitot*.

**The Hay Lifecycle Program** offers students in the *Hay* class a chance to demonstrate what they’ve learned about the Jewish Lifecycle by re-enacting milestone events such as *Brit Milah* and *BritBat*/Naming Ceremonies; Bar/Bat Mitzvah; and a Jewish wedding.

**The Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration** provides *Vav* (6<sup>th</sup> grade) students and their parents with an intimate insight into the origins of the Holocaust through direct contact with a *Shoah* survivor who shares his or her personal story and memorabilia.

**The Vav Living History Program** offers 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents an opportunity to learn about and share their own family’s history through researching, cataloguing and displaying family keepsakes and heirlooms.

## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

Parents may notify the Religious School of the schedule and/or teacher they prefer, as well as request that their children be assigned to the same class as specific friends. Requests for class placements will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed. The Religious School forms classes that aim to meet the educational needs of all the students. Many considerations come into play, including Hebrew level, class size, gender balance and compatibility of students. While we cannot make guarantees, greater consideration is given to those *who submit their registration materials early* in the process.

## **LOST & FOUND**

Anything found in the Religious School should be taken to the school secretary who will place it in a collection box in the School Office. Anything lost in the Religious School should be sought in the School Office. Once a year the box will be emptied and its contents donated to *tzedakah*. Please note that the majority of items children lose are never claimed or identified. It is in your interest to label everything your child takes to Religious School with their names so that they can be returned. This includes backpacks, hats, jackets, sweaters, scarves, gloves, books, pencil boxes, lunch bags, cell phones, purses, etc.

## **KIPPOT**

The entire synagogue, including the school, is a *makom kadosh* – a holy place. Out of respect for the sanctity of the place and the subjects taught here, we follow traditional Jewish practice in requiring males to wear *kippot* at all times in our building. Since we are an egalitarian Conservative congregation, we also encourage girls to wear *kippot*. Hats may not be substituted for *kippot*. Much class time is wasted when children lose their *kippot* and must come to the office to get a replacement. The school will provide each student with his/her own unique knitted kippah and bobby pins at the beginning of the year. Teachers will write each student's name inside his or her *kippah*. If a child loses his or her personal *kippah* then s/he will need to get a plain thin black replacement *kippah* from the school office, or parents may purchase another knitted *kippah* from the school office for \$3.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Every student needs to have a separate book bag or backpack for Religious School use, clearly labeled with the student's first and last names. Students should bring at least a couple of sharpened pencils with them and a notebook or some loose-leaf paper, as well as any Religious School textbooks that their teachers send home for homework. Each teacher will provide parents with his or her own list of required classroom supplies on *Yom Ha-Mishpachah*/Welcome Back Family Day.

## **SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS BEFORE SCHOOL**

The school does not provide supervision of students prior to class time. If parents wish to bring their children more than 10 minutes before the start of class, we are happy to provide a room where students can do homework, eat snacks brought from home, and/or quietly socialize, *so long as a parent remains to supervise.*

## **CLASS CELEBRATIONS**

Occasionally parents wish to acknowledge their child's birthday in Religious School by sending in a special treat. Please contact your child's teacher first to get permission and to find out if there are any children in the class with allergies. Any food brought in must be certified kosher. Homemade foods may not be brought into the school. (Please see the *kashrut* policy on pp. 13-14 of this Handbook.)

## **AWARDS and INCENTIVES**

We believe that appropriate student recognition fosters a climate that encourages and rewards effort and excellence. Throughout the school year punctuality is encouraged by distributing "on time raffle tickets" to all students who arrive on time, and then holding a drawing for prizes twice a month. In addition, after Religious School the Director is usually in the lobby distributing trinkets to any student who can report something new learned in Religious School.

At the end of each school year deserving students are publicly recognized for their accomplishments. Recognition is given for: Attendance (with a record of at least 80%); Synagogue Attendance (for attending a minimum of 8 services with a parent); and Family Education (for attending a minimum of 5 programs with a parent). Those who meet both the minimum synagogue and the minimum Family Education attendance requirements receive "13 Mitzvot Club" certificates, and enjoy special privileges in the school, such as selecting the winning raffle tickets and prizes and announcing the raffle winners over the PA system. Students who make the "Chai Club" (attending at least 5 Family Education programs and at least 13 services with their parents) receive all the same privileges, and will be publicly honored on a Shabbat before the end of school, when they will be presented with a beautiful certificate and a customized "Chai Club" gift. *Vav* students who complete their mitzvah project and class presentation are eligible to receive the Sherut, or community service, award.

The highest levels of recognition are Judaic Scholar and Keter Torah. In order to receive Judaic Scholar a student must have a record of outstanding class attendance (at least 90%), meet or exceed the synagogue's Service and Family Education attendance requirements, and have an excellent record of academic performance, behavior and effort. Students who have earned four or more Judaic Scholar awards over their Religious School career, and who have also earned the Sherut award in their *Vav* year, will be eligible to be entered into the Keter Torah society at the end of their *Zayin* year.

Additional awards, such as Overall Academic Achievement, achievement in a specific subject,

Derech Eretz (good citizenship) and others, may be given to students at the discretion of the teachers.

## COMMITTEES

**The Religious School Education Committee (RSEC)** is comprised of parents, the Religious School Director and synagogue clergy. The committee tackles issues related to the Religious School policy and curriculum. If you'd like to participate, please contact Miriam Kobliner, 829-3444, [kobliner@optonline.net](mailto:kobliner@optonline.net) or Rachel Geula, 466-0667, [rokhsar@aol.com](mailto:rokhsar@aol.com).

**The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Committee** is a subcommittee of the RSEC, which oversees all aspects of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. For more information, contact Marc Langsner, 516-829-5605, [mlangsner@sheldongraphics.com](mailto:mlangsner@sheldongraphics.com).

**The Education Vision Team** is an outgrowth of the ReImagine Task Force and Implementation committees. Its objective is to help ensure that the vision developed by the ReImagine Task Force continues to guide Jewish Education at Temple Israel at all levels. The team includes the clergy, the school directors, a member of the Executive Board, and lay representatives from all of the schools. For more information on this committee, contact Coordinator Karen Bardash, 467-4875, [kb@nebro.com](mailto:kb@nebro.com).

**The Parents Association** sponsors special treats related to holidays and provides Shabbat snacks for children attending services. Fundraising by the PA supports these activities and provides other needed resources to the Religious School. The PA is responsible for organizing a room parent for each class, as well as the school emergency phone tree. Please consider volunteering to serve as your child's room parent. If you are interested in helping, please contact Alicia Lev, 857-5027, [alicialev@gmail.com](mailto:alicialev@gmail.com).

**The Vice President for Education** of the Temple Israel Board of Trustees is Rebecca Sassouni, 482-0211, [rebeccasassouni@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccasassouni@gmail.com).

## BOOK LIST 5771 – 2010-11

### Nitzanim (Kindergarten)

Holidays: Let's Discover the Holidays – FALL (Behrman House)  
Let's Discover the Holidays – SPRING (Behrman House)  
Torah/Bible: Various teacher resource materials.  
Hebrew: New Siddur Program Reading Readiness (Behrman House)  
T'fillah: Siddur Divrei Ha-Lev (Rabbi Klirs)

### Alef (First Grade)

Holidays: A Time to Celebrate (Torah Aura)  
Torah/Bible: A Child's Garden of Torah Sticker Lesson Copy Pack (Torah Aura)  
A Child's Garden of Torah Read-Aloud Book (Torah Aura)(*teacher resource*)\*

Values/Mitzvot: Let's Discover Mitzvot (Behrman House)  
Hebrew: Shalom Alef Bet (Behrman House)  
Mishpachah (KTAV)

### **Bet (Second Grade)**

Holidays: Let's Celebrate (Behrman House)  
Torah/Bible: My Weekly Sidra (Torah Aura)  
Hebrew: Shalom Uvrachah: The New Hebrew Primer (script edition) (Behrman House)  
Shalom Uvrachah Interactive CD (Behrman House)  
Script Writing Supplement (Sarah and David) (*copy master*)  
T'fillah/Values: Let's Discover God (Behrman House)

### **Gimmel (Third Grade)**

Holidays: Experiencing the Jewish Holidays (Torah Aura)  
Torah/Values: The Explorer's Bible, Vol. 1: From Creation to the Exodus (Behrman House)  
Hebrew: Hebrew Reading Adventure (Torah Aura) (review book)  
Modern Hebrew (Enrichment): Shalom Ivrit I (Behrman House)  
T'fillah: Hineni I (Behrman House)  
Hineni I Interactive CD (Behrman House)  
Hineni Script Writing Workbook (Behrman House)  
Siddur Shema Yisrael (USCJ) (*given to students at Kabbalat Siddur ceremony at end of year*)

### **Dalet (Fourth Grade)**

Holidays: The Book of Jewish Holidays (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*  
Bible/Values: A Child's Bible: Lessons from the Prophets (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*  
Israel: Welcome to Israel (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*  
Modern Hebrew: My Hebrew Phrase Book I (Barvaz Press)  
Modern Hebrew (Enrichment): Shalom Ivrit II (Behrman House)  
T'fillah: Hineni II (Behrman House) (*teacher resource*)\*  
Hineni II Interactive CD (Behrman House)  
Siddur Shema Yisrael (USCJ) (*students bring own copies*)

### **Hay (Fifth Grade)**

Life Cycle: The Time of Our Lives– A Teen Guide to the Jewish Life Cycle (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*  
Torah/Bible: B'reisheet (Genesis) using Parashat Hashavua: Reading Genesis (Behrman House) and The Torah: The Five Books of Moses (JPS) (*classroom resource*)\*  
Holidays/Values: BabagaNewz (*on line teacher resource*)\*  
Modern Hebrew: My Hebrew Phrase Book II (Barvaz Press)  
Modern Hebrew (Enrichment): Ulpan Alef and Ulpan Bet (Behrman House)  
Bantom Hebrew-English Dictionary (KTAV) (*classroom resource*)\*  
T'fillah: Hineni III (Behrman House)  
Hineni III Interactive CD (Behrman House)  
Siddur Sim Shalom (RA/USCJ) (*classroom resource*)\*

## **Vav (Sixth Grade)**

Holidays: Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*

Torah/Bible: Sh'mot (Exodus) using Etz Hayim Torah and Commentary (RA/USCJ) (*classroom resource*)\*

Values: The Kid's Guide to Service Projects (Torah Aura)

It's a Mitzvah! (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*

Doing Mitzvot: Mitzvah Projects for Bar/Bat Mitzvah (KTAV) (*teacher resource*)\*

BabagaNewz (on line teacher resource)

History: The History of the Jewish People, Vol. 1 (Behrman House) (*classroom resource*)\*

T'fillah: (*selected chapters from various texts correlating to curriculum*)

Siddur Sim Shalom (RA/USCJ) (*classroom resource*)\*

Modern Hebrew: My Hebrew Phrase Book II (Barvaz Press)

Modern Hebrew (Enrichment): Ulpan Bet and Let's Talk (Behrman House)

Bantam Hebrew-English Dictionary (KTAV) (*classroom resource*)\*

\*Key:

Teacher resource means that the teacher has one copy, and selects appropriate chapters or pages to read to or distribute to students.

Classroom resource means there are enough copies of the book for each student, but students are not to write in them, and the books remain in the classroom, unless occasionally required for homework.

All other books and materials are to be given to students to write in and keep.