

Dear Temple School Parents,

Welcome to Temple School! We are excited to have you as a part of our vibrant and growing community. This handbook has been prepared to explain school policies, special programs and our curriculum. Please take the time to read all sections so that you will be prepared for the coming year. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at the Temple School office, 479-3444 x218. If you have any concerns, criticisms, ideas, or special needs, Rabbi Shifra would love to talk with you. Her phone extension at the Temple is 217, or just stick your head in her office to set up an appointment.

Our office hours during the school year are:

Tuesday	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Parents, we extend to all of you a cordial invitation to join us on Sundays from 11:15 to 11:45 for T'fillah in the sanctuary with the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias, Rabbi Educator  
Sarah Clarkson, Temple School Administrative Assistant

## **Vision Statement**

The children who are educated in our religious school will positively identify themselves as Jews. They will develop a personal Jewish spirituality and understand Jewish perspectives on God. They will understand the personal and social ethics of Judaism as a central aspect of the Jewish tradition from a variety of Jewish sources, including Torah, Rabbinic literature and modern commentary. Our students will be competent and feel comfortable participating in Shabbat, holiday, and life cycle observances, in the home and in the Temple. They will acquire sufficient Hebrew knowledge to accomplish this goal. They will have knowledge of the broad sweep of Jewish history, from Biblical times to the present. They will feel their connection to and responsibility for the state of Israel and K'lal Yisrael (the Jewish people today). We will involve the student's family as partners with the school in order to reach the fulfillment of our Jewish educational goals.

## **Are We “Jewish Enough” to enroll our child at Temple School at Temple Beth El?**

If the goals of the Vision Statement seem right for your children, they will fit right in with the rest of their Temple School classmates. Over 50% of our students come from interfaith families. Many have little or no Jewish education or background experience. We simply require that our students identify as Jews and are not being raised as an affiliate of another religion, i.e. Christianity. In the years after Kindergarten, a family must be Temple members to enroll their children in Temple School. Temple Beth El welcomes your family as members of Temple Beth El if at least one parent is Jewish either through matrilineal or patrilineal descent, or by conversion. One of our rabbis would be happy to answer any questions you have concerning this issue, specifics of which are more clearly outlined in the Temple By-Laws.

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**NOTICE OF NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**  
Temple School Sundays are now just one session  
**FROM 9:45 TO 11:45.**

**Wednesdays afternoon and evening:** Students in Temple School 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades meet on Wednesday afternoon from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in addition to their Sunday classes. On Wednesday afternoons, all students meet in the Sanctuary for singing with the clergy at 4:00 p.m. At 4:10 p.m., Session 1 students go to their classrooms. Break is from 5:00 to 5:15, after which they will have Hebrew electives.

**All School Holiday Celebrations, Field Trips and Family Learning Days:** Parents are welcome to attend these special learning events. We will e-mail you to remind you of these dates, which can also be found on your Temple School calendar and on the Temple website.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade Hebrew School meets from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.**  
**7<sup>th</sup> grade meets from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**

Seventh Grade students meet concurrently with Hebrew High. Half of the evening will be Hebrew study and half will be Jewish studies. They will join Hebrew High in the Sanctuary for T'fillah at 7:45 p.m.

**☆ROOM ASSIGNMENTS☆**

**ALL STUDENTS WAIT IN FOYER FOR BELL BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THEIR CLASSROOMS.**

Jewish A Lot (@ 9:00 a.m.)	Social Hall
Kindergarten	Room 7*
Grade 1	Room 8*
Grade 2	Room 6*
Grade 3	Room 5*
Grade 4	Room 3*
Grade 5	Room 4*
Grade 6	Room 2*

\*Subject to enrollments



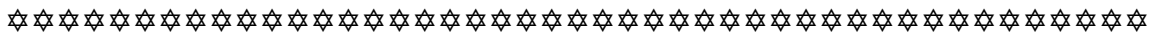
**ALL STUDENTS GO DIRECTLY TO THE SANCTUARY AT 4:00 PM FOR T'FILLAH**

**WEDNESDAYS - 4:10 TO 5:00**

Grade 4	Room 2 and Room 3
Grade 5	Library
Grade 6	Room 4 and Room 5

**WEDNESDAYS – 5:15 TO 6:00**

Level Aleph Hebrew	TBA
Level Bet Hebrew	TBA
Mitkadem	Library
Hebrew Electives	TBA



**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

**ALL STUDENTS WAIT IN FOYER FOR BELL BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THEIR CLASSROOMS.**

	<b>7:00 TO 7:45</b>	<b>8:15 TO 9:00</b>
Grade 7	Room 3	Room 4

**Early Dismissal Policy:** Permission to leave Temple School early **must** be requested by the parent(s) **in person or with a written note**. For your child's safety, you must come to the Temple School office. One of the Temple School administrators will bring your child(ren) to you.

**Visiting Friends:** If your child has a Jewish friend who wants to observe Temple School and possibly enroll, please let us know and we will be happy to arrange their visit. Otherwise, we discourage friends attending Temple School with your child. If a friend must come to Temple School with your child, you **must obtain the teacher's permission AHEAD** of the visit and inform Sarah Clarkson or Rabbi Shifra.

**Health and Safety:** Please do not send your child to Temple School if he or she has had a fever in the past 24 hours. Parents will be contacted if their child becomes ill or is injured at school. Please make sure that you or someone who can pick up your child in case of an emergency can be contacted the whole time that your child is with us. Please notify the Temple School Office if your child contracts a contagious disease (i.e. chicken pox, strep throat, head lice, etc.) For security reasons, school doors will remain supervised or locked at all times.

**Snacks:** Due to parent feedback, we are limiting the distribution of sweets at Temple School to Chanukah and the last day of school. Otherwise, there will be no distribution of candy, cookies, doughnuts, cake, sugary drinks, or caffeine. If you are part of a snack rotation, please do not bring any sugary foods. Even muffins are basically cupcakes without the frosting. We want our students to be healthy and we prefer when they are not on a sugar high.

**Parent Involvement:** Parents can strengthen their child's Temple School experience by taking an active part in the educational experience. Holiday workshops, adult education classes, Shabbat dinners, family services and participation on the Education Committee of the Temple are but a few possibilities. If you are interested in the Education Committee please contact Penny Chesluk, chairperson at 426-3139.

**Materials:** In order to learn, a student must be prepared. Help your children to remember to bring books, notebooks, pencils, and homework to class each session. Your child(ren) may find it helpful to have a canvas bag or backpack specially designated for Temple School materials. This will keep everything in one place and be easier on both parent and child. If you are a two household family, ordering an extra set of textbooks (one set for each household) might be helpful for your child(ren). Parents in all grades using the CHAI Core Curriculum have the option to order the student journal for home use.

**Tzedakah:** The giving of tzedakah is one of the greatest mitzvot (good deeds or commandments) that we as Jews can observe. Tzedakah teaches us that as individuals we can make a difference in the lives of others. You and your child can decide if you will give your child extra money for this school activity, if your child will use part of his/her allowance or if your child will need to earn money for tzedakah. Participation in the mitzvah of tzedakah is a valuable part of your child's Jewish education. We ask that each student bring tzedakah money every time s/he comes to class.

**Student Evaluations:** The classroom teacher will evaluate each student's progress twice during the year. Parents will receive a written evaluation.

**Rock Shabbat and Shabbat Services:** All of our services are child-friendly. We encourage you to check the calendar in your *Shofar* and come to services with your children. Seeing you enjoy your prayer experience will support your children in their Jewish studies. This year we are encouraging Temple School families to attend “Rock Shabbat” which will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month from September through May at 7:30 p.m. All-school traditional Shabbat dinners will precede Rock Shabbat twice a year. Prepaid reservations are required for dinner.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah:** Bar/Bat Mitzvah is customarily celebrated on the Shabbat closest to the student's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our clergy will assign a bar/bat mitzvah date for each child. Families will be notified of the assigned date at the beginning of the 6th grade year. The date chosen is the one that works best for your child in relation to his/her birthday, the birthdays that come before it and the Temple calendar. However, any available dates that remain will be listed on your notification letter. If your assigned date does not meet the needs of your family, you can request one of the remaining available dates on a “first come, first served” basis, or contact other class families directly should you wish to explore an exchange of dates.

A bar/bat mitzvah planning guide has been prepared for prospective bar/bat mitzvah families. A parent/student orientation to review the many details that relate to this celebration will take place in May of each year.

**Please note that we require a minimum enrollment in Temple School of two years prior to bar or bat mitzvah.**

**Hebrew High School:** We offer a 3-year Hebrew High School for our 8<sup>th</sup>, 9th and 10th grade students. This three-year program taught by the clergy and staff is many-faceted and interactive, culminating in Confirmation. Students take core classes, as well as electives. Please see the Hebrew High School Handbook for more information. It is available on the Temple website, [www.tbeptos.org](http://www.tbeptos.org).

**Madrachim Program:** Our Temple’s young adults may apply for positions to serve as teaching aides in our Temple School while studying various aspects of youth leadership and classroom management. Students earn the minimum wage during their first year.

## Overview of Temple Beth El Temple School Curriculum

Our Temple School Curriculum is currently undergoing a metamorphosis as a result of feedback we have received from students, parents, and teachers. After demonstrating the ability to read Hebrew, students will now have the opportunity to elect and change their method of continuing Hebrew studies. Parents and children will work together to choose their preference. The following Hebrew classes will be offered; selections may be changed for winter quarter as needed. You may want to purchase *Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew* from EKS Publishing Co., 1-877-743-2739, [www.ekspublishing.com](http://www.ekspublishing.com). This can supply you with everything you need to expedite your child's progress while you learn with them.

**Level aleph Hebrew** – Hebrew Reading (alephbet & vowel introduction)

**Level bet Hebrew** – Hebrew Reading (review of all Hebrew Reading fundamentals & reading practice)

\* Level 2 Hebrew skills must be demonstrated in order to sign up for the following Hebrew electives.

**Mitkadem** - Mitkadem Hebrew prayer and ritual program allows students to feel they are able to learn and be successful, no matter what their level of ability. The learning is self-paced and each student is engaged with material appropriate to him or her. For more information, please visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com)

Text: *Ramot 3* and above

**Conversational Hebrew for beginners** - Take a trip through Israel with four young teens. From the airport in New York to floating in the Dead Sea, buying gifts in the shuk in Be'er-Sheva, working on a kibbutz, swimming in Eilat, and riding a camel in the desert, you'll experience the travel adventures of these four young people – all in Hebrew!

Text: *Let's Talk!: Modern Hebrew for Teens* (Behrman House)

**Biblical Hebrew** - Students will learn to translate words and phrases from the actual Torah text, and will work toward understanding the language of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah Torah portions. Students will be required to do homework.

Text: *The First Hebrew Primer* (EKS Publishing)

**Hebrew Ulpan** (for higher level Hebrew learners) - The teacher will speak to the students and teach the class in Hebrew. Students will be required to do homework and to practice speaking and writing in Hebrew.

Text: *Chaverim B'Ivrit* series (URJ Press)

**Hebrew through Games** - This class is designed for students who learn more readily when they are highly active. Curriculum will be based on the vocabulary & concepts of Jewish Prayer.

Text and materials to be determined

**Jump Start to Bar and Bat Mitzvah** – This class will provide additional help in preparation for our B'nai Mitzvah Program. Students will practice trope for Torah cantillation, prayers and blessings and other important B'nai Mitzvah skills.

Text to be decided

Hebrew Curriculum on Sundays for grades 4 through 6 will continue to focus on the main prayers of the Shabbat Morning Service.

**THE FOLLOWING CONTAINS A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE CURRICULUM TOPICS FOR GRADES K - 10 AND FOR JEWISH A LOT, OUR PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM.**

**Jewish A Lot for Parents & Tots** is a pre-school parent/child interactive program. It is open to kids ages 0 - preK with their parent(s). One of the goals of this program is to create positive associations with the synagogue and Temple School. This is a monthly program devoted to Jewish holidays and values. Songs and stories, and crafts are all a part of the Jewish A Lot experience. Jewish A Lot is free and open to Temple members and non-members alike.

**Kindergarten**

- Introduction to Jewish Holidays with a special focus on Shabbat
- Judaism as part of the student's personal identity
- Introduction to prayer and God
- Shabbat Blessings and blessings for food
- Hebrew as a holy language and the language of Israel
- Hebrew Literacy Words
- Introduction to the Hebrew Alef- Bet
- Once a year Family Learning session with one of our clergy team

**First Grade**

- The Jewish Holiday Cycle with a special focus on Hanukkah and Shavuot
- The Ten Commandments
- Mitzvot, the Synagogue, Jewish symbols, Israel, Bible, Jewish Life Cycle
- Sh'ma and Holiday blessings
- Hebrew Literacy Words
- The Hebrew Alef- Bet
- Once a year Family Learning session with one of our clergy team

**Second Grade**

- Jewish Holidays with a special focus on Simhat Torah and Purim
- Sh'hehyanu
- Focus on Bible stories
- CHAI* Level 2 Core Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Hebrew Literacy words
- Hebrew reading readiness
- Once a year Family Learning session with one of our clergy team

**Third Grade**

- Hebrew Reading
- The People of Israel
- Holiday customs and symbols as celebrated in Israel, with a special focus on Passover
- Expansion of Holiday blessings and the 4 Questions of Passover
- Once a year Family Learning session with one of our clergy team

**Fourth Grade**

**Our two-day a week program begins in this grade.**

- Jewish Holiday traditions with a special focus on Simchat Torah and Hanukkah
- Once a year Family Learning sessions focused on the Holiday cycle
- CHAI* Level 4 Core Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Hebrew Curriculum (See page 8)
- Attendance at weekly T'fillah

**Fifth Grade**

- Holidays with a special focus on Sukkot and Shavuot
- CHAI Level 5 Core Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Once a year Family Learning session
- Hebrew Curriculum (See page 8)
- Attendance at weekly T'fillah

### **Sixth Grade**

- The Shabbat Morning Prayer Service
- Emphasis on High Holy Days and Passover
- Study of the prophets and sections that comprise the Haftarah selections
- Twice a year Family Learning session
- CHAI Level 6 Core Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Hebrew Curriculum (See page 8)
- Attendance at weekly T'fillah

### **Seventh Grade**

- CHAI Level 7 Core Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Introduction to Modern Hebrew
- History of Modern Israel
- Holocaust Studies
- Sacred Choices Curriculum (for more information, visit [www.urjpress.com](http://www.urjpress.com))
- Attendance at weekly T'fillah
- Torah Trope & Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade family retreat focusing on topics relevant to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Sixth through Eighth Grade Junior Youth Group** - BETY (Beth El Temple Youth) is another way for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to socialize, form friendships, and participate in social justice.

**Senior Youth Group** - The Temple senior youth group, SRFY, offers a broad variety of activities for grades 9 through 12. These programs are social, cultural, religious and social action oriented. SRFY helps develop a bond between our young people, our community and *Klal Yisrael*. All high school students are invited to participate in the Senior Youth group.

**Camp Swig/Newman Weekends** - Our URJ regional camp Camp Swig/Newman is located near Santa Rosa. During the school year Camp Swig/Newman presents weekend retreats for students by grade level. Attending these retreat weekends greatly enhances your child's Jewish identity. They also create a unique bonding between your child and his/her classmates. In addition to introducing your child to the Jewish camp experience, the retreats are also an opportunity for your child to meet other Jewish children from throughout Northern California. We encourage all students to attend the Swig/Newman weekend for their grade. Financial assistance is available; please contact the clergy.

**Camp Kayetz** - Temple Beth El has its own Jewish summer camp for three weeks, beginning at the end of June. Camp Kayetz is loads of fun, and kids get to strengthen their community of Temple School friends and their Jewish identity. For more information, contact Mimi Guinney ([miriambg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miriambg@sbcglobal.net))

# DERECH ERETZ

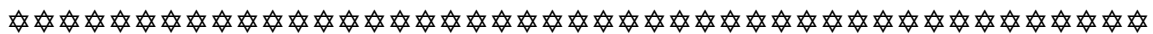
*The Temple School is committed to standards of excellence, both in student personal growth and academic accomplishments. The following basic principles support our curriculum for teaching responsible behavior according to our Jewish tradition.*

1. **Talmud Torah** – The school is a place for the pursuit of learning with the goal of personal growth.
2. **V’Ahavta L’re’echa Kamocho** – Respect for the rights and feelings of others.
3. **Al Tifrosh min Hatzibur** – Respect and responsibility for the community.
4. **Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh la Zeh** – Responsibility for the safety of self and others.
5. **Bal Tash-chit** – Respect and responsibility for the environment and property.
6. **Im Ein Ani Li Mi Li** – Responsibility for one’s own actions.

*Under no circumstances will the following be tolerated: defiance, stealing, vandalism, dishonesty, profanity or vulgarity, fighting, drugs, alcohol, tobacco.*

*There will be no name calling. The use of derogatory slurs will not be tolerated, even if used jokingly.*

Consequences of violation of the above basic principles of behavior will result in a prescribed disciplinary process which may include suspension and/or expulsion from Temple School.



**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend regularly and arrive on time. Students who are frequently absent will miss the impact and continuity of their class work. In addition, absences affect the entire class and ultimately, the learning of each student. If you know of an upcoming absence, please notify the teacher and request any work or handouts for your child. If you anticipate a long-term absence, please notify Temple School. We will arrange for some independent study.

We have a 2/3-attendance policy. Students who are absent beyond the numbers outlined above may be required to pass a proficiency examination on the subject areas covered in that grade to be promoted to the next grade. Extra tutoring at the cost of parents may be required.

We count on you, the parents, for the timely arrival and departure of your child(ren) from Temple School. There is **no** provision for their supervision after any of the sessions. **Please be prompt.**

Please help us to make arrival and departures for Temple School as safe as possible by observing the following directions.

**Drop off:**

**For students kindergarten - third grades, please**

- ✧ **Park** your car in a designated parking spot
- ✧ **Escort** your child to the foyer and wait for the bell before proceeding to her or his classroom.

**For students in fourth - tenth grades, please**

- ✧ Drive into the parking lot to the turn around area
- ✧ Make a U turn in the turn around area
- ✧ Drop your child off at the front entrance to the Temple

**Pick up:**

**For students in kindergarten - third grades, please**

- ✧ **Park** in a designated parking spot
- ✧ **Meet** your child in her/his classroom.
- ✧ **Escort** your child from his/her classroom to the car.

**For students in fourth - tenth grades, please**

**PARK in a designated parking spot and wait for your child(ren).**

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK OR STOP IN THE DROP-OFF ZONE OR RED ZONES. IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT VISIBLE AND READY TO EMBARK, PARK IN A DESIGNATED PARKING SPOT.**

