



Congregation

Beth Emeth

est. 1838

PARENT HANDBOOK

**The Einhorn Center for
Jewish Education**

2023 - 2024

5784



Mission Statement

Congregation Beth Emeth is a community committed to the principles of Reform Judaism.

The mission of its Religious School is to create an educational environment in which children and parents acquire knowledge and through that knowledge a love and commitment to living a Jewish life.

Connect. Belong. Engage.

What We Want for Our Children

We want our children to be at home in their Jewishness, to have a comfortable sense of belonging.

We want our children's Jewishness to be as natural to them as their breathing.

We want our children to have a reverence for all life; to develop a sense of awe and mystery about the known as well as the unknown, to be warmed by the sun of knowledge.

We want our children to appreciate the beauty and the richness of our customs and ceremonies, and to observe them with joy.

We want our children to appreciate that their religion is concerned with all reality, that it can flourish only when the mind is open and free.

We want our children to understand that Judaism welcomes all truth, whether shining from the annals of ancient revelation or reaching us through the seers of our own time.

We want our children to learn how to love; to love themselves, to love one another, to love humanity.

We want our children to sense a bond of union with the Jewish people and with all people.

~Adapted from a reading by Leonard I. Beerman, The Eternal Light

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The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education Calendar 2023-2024

September 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2023

4 - Labor Day (Federal Holiday)
 10 - Family Fun Fest
 16 - Rosh Hashanah Young Family Service
 16 - Rosh Hashanah Children's Programming
20 - OPENING WED OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
 25 - Yom Kippur Young Family Service
 25 - Yom Kippur Children's Programming
 29-Oct 6 - Sukkot Holiday
 30 - CBE & Me Sukkah Shake

October 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22*	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October 2023

1 - OPENING SUNDAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/Sukkot
 6 - Simchat Torah, Consecration, and Unravelling of the Torah
 9 - Columbus Day (Federal Holiday)
 20 - Blessing of the Pets/Outside Service
 21 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 1 (Spring Pod)
 22 - CBE Religious School Mini Mitzvah Day

November 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5*	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 2023

3 - Ruach Shabbat featuring Grade 6
 4 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 2/D'var Torah Workshop (Spring Pod)
 10 - Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday)
 23 - Thanksgiving (Federal Holiday)
 26 - Thanksgiving Weekend

December 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17*	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 2023

3 - Grade 6 @ CBE Soup Kitchen
 8 - Chanukah Shabbat featuring Jr. Choir/Dinner
 9 - CBE & Me Chanukah Fun
 10 - Jr. Choir performing at Daughters of Sarah
 13 - Chanukah Program
 16 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 3 (Spring Pod)
 24-31 - Winter Break

January 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28*	29	30	31			

January 2024

12 - Ruach Shabbat featuring Grades 4-5
 14 - MLK Weekend
 20 - CBE & Me Tu B'Shevat
 20 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 4 (Spring Pod)
 21 - Grade 5 Family Education: Israeli Luncheon
 25 - Tu B'Shevat

Sundays run 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Wednesdays run 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

 School in Session
 No School
 Reading Pod Wk
 Arba in Session
 * Grades 8-9 in Session

The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education Calendar 2023-2024

February 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11*	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February 2024

JDAIM: Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month

- 2 - Ruach Shabbat featuring Grades K-1
- 7 - Grade 5 Lifecycle Programming: Circumcision and Naming
- 16 - CBE & Me Teddy Shabbat w/PJ Library
- 17 - Grade 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 1 (Fall Pod)
- 18-25 - Mid-Winter Break
- 28 - Grade 5 Lifecycle Family Education: Mikvah @ JCC

March 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3*	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 2024

- 1 - Ruach Shabbat featuring Jr. Choir
- 10 - Grade 5 Lifecycle Family Education: Death and Dying Workshop
- 17 - Grade 5 Lifecycle Family Education: Cemetery Visit
- 23 - CBE & Me Purim
- 23 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 2/D'var Torah Workshop (Fall Pod)
- 24 - Purim Megillah Reading and Carnival
- 31-Apr 7 - Spring Break

April 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14*	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 2024

- 10 - Grade 5 Lifecycle Family Education: Mock Wedding
- 12 - Ruach Shabbat featuring Grades 2-3
- 13 - Grades 6/7 Shabbat Morning Service 3 (Fall Pod)
- 17 - School-wide Passover Program
- 20 - CBE & Me Passover
- 22-30 - Passover Break

May 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5*	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May 2024

- 3 - Ruach Shabbat Featuring Jr. Choir
- 5 - CLOSING DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/PICNIC**
- 6 - Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
- 11 - CBE & Me Program
- 12 - Mother's Day
- 13 - Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Day of Remembrance)
- 14 - Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day).
- 26 - Lag B'Omer (*Lag BaOmer is a minor, festive holiday. Some people celebrate with picnics and bonfires.)
- 29 - Confirmation Rehearsal

June 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 2024

- 5 - Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)/Confirmation Rehearsal
- 7 - Confirmation and Erev Shabbat Service
- 10 - CBE Annual Meeting
- 12 - Shavuot
- 16 - Father's Day
- 20 - Summer Begins!

Sundays run 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Wednesdays run 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

 School in Session
 No School
 Reading Pod Wk
 Arba in Session
 * Grades 8-9 in Session

2023-2024 The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education Faculty

<u>ARBA For FOURS!</u> Rachel Federman	<u>Kindergarten</u> Leah Sanders	<u>Grade 1</u> Alison Simpson	<u>Grade 2</u> Dalia Ben-Eliezer
<u>Grade 3</u> Suzi Nohai and Iyal Basen	<u>Grade 4</u> Wednesday Dalia Ben-Eliezer Sunday Amie Bloom	<u>Grade 5</u> Shoham Piorentino-Huli	<u>Grade 6</u> Wednesday Hayden Marshall Sunday Sara Salitan-Thiell
<u>Grade 7</u> Cantor Emily Short and Rabbi Ami Monson	<u>Grades 8 and 9</u> <u>Leadership Development Program</u> Clergy Team		<u>Confirmation Program</u> <u>Grade 10</u> Rabbi Greg Weitzman
<u>Specialty & Support Staff</u>			
<u>Tefillah & Music</u> Clergy Team		<u>Inclusion Coordinator</u> Coordinator Jodi Rossman	
<u>Administrative Assistant</u> Manya Monson		<u>Art and Cooking Faculty</u> Judy Glatt Amy Rosenstrauch	<u>Teen Aide/Madrachim Supervisor</u> Rabbi Shara Siegfeld
<u>Parenting Center</u>		<u>Reading Pod Program</u>	
<u>Sunday Discoveries</u> Sheryl Welton		<u>Supervisor</u> Susan Kushner <u>Support Staff</u> Linda Barnas Dalia Ben Eliezer Cecile Kowalski	

GENERAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Each child's religious education is a partnership between the school and families. To maximize success, students are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and with completed homework and all learning supplies.

UPDATED ATTENDANCE POLICY

Grades K-2

All students in Grades K-2 are expected to attend at least eighty (80) percent of the total religious school class sessions for each grade level.

Prior to the end of 2nd grade, it is expected that students will have completed the foundational curriculum in order to begin their Hebrew education in 3rd grade. If any student has not met the curriculum requirements, it is expected the student's family will meet with the Director of Lifelong Learning to determine how the student will satisfy the curriculum requirements.

Grades 3-6

All students in Grades 3-6 are expected to attend at least eighty (80) percent of the total religious school class sessions, which includes Sundays and Wednesdays, for each grade level.

If any student has not attended eighty percent of the sessions for their grade level and has not completed the curriculum requirements for their grade level, it is expected the student's family will meet with the Director of Lifelong Learning and Clergy to determine how the student will satisfy the curriculum requirements.

Grades 7-10

All students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 10 are expected to attend at least seventy (70) percent of the total religious school class sessions for each grade level.

Grades 8 –10 are expected to volunteer twice at the CBE Soup Kitchen.

If any student has not attended seventy percent of sessions and has not completed the curriculum requirements for their grade level, it is expected the student's family will meet with the Director of Lifelong Learning and Clergy to determine how the student will satisfy the curriculum requirements.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year

One year prior to becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in addition to attending at least seventy (70) percent of religious school class sessions, students also attend three (3) Saturday Shabbat morning services at Congregation Beth Emeth as scheduled by Cantor Short.

If a student does not regularly attend their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation classes and as a result, the Cantor determines additional support is needed for the student to meet requirements, the student's family must meet with the Cantor to determine how the student will satisfy the requirements. The student's family will be responsible for the cost of any additional classes or tutoring needed to meet Bar/Bat Mitzvah requirements.

If at any time a family feels that they are unable to comply with the above policy, they should contact the Director of Lifelong Learning in order to discuss how to satisfy the curriculum requirements.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS

SUNDAY: Grades K – 6 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Arba Twice a Month: Oct 1 and 22, Nov 5 and 19, Dec 10 and 17, Jan 7 and 21,
Feb 4 and 11, Mar 10 and 24, Apr 14 and 21, May 5**

Grade 8-9 9:45 am-11:45 am (As Scheduled)

Oct 22, Nov 5, Dec 17, Jan 28, Feb 11, Mar 3, Apr 14, May 5 (brief meeting)

WEDNESDAY: Grades 3 - 7 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Grade 10 has varied meeting dates and times.

Teachers are expected in their classrooms 15 minute prior to the start of classes and to remain until all students are picked up or under the supervision of Rabbi Shara.

Sessions will begin and dismiss on time.

ARRIVAL

We open our doors 15 minutes before the start of classes (9:15 am on Sundays and 4:15 pm on Wednesdays) with Rabbi Shara, or another staff member, outside to greet students being dropped off.

On Sunday mornings from 9:15 am-9:25 am, while teachers are preparing, all students will be in the Adult chapel with one of our Shinshinim (young teachers from Israel) for a before classes song or game. Students will then be dismissed to their classes to be ready for learning at 9:30 am.

On Wednesdays, upon drop off, students may walk themselves down to their classroom.

EARLY DISMISSAL

If you need to pick up your child early, please call Manya in our office at (518) 432-1392 or text Rabbi Shara (518) 281-4221 when you are parked at the curb for the early pickup.

We will walkie talkie to your child's classroom and call them up for early dismissal. Please DO NOT call or text your child in classes as this is disruptive and we require parental notification to release.

GENERAL DISMISSAL

On Sundays at 11:55 am and Wednesdays at 5:55 pm all classes will be brought into the Adult Chapel and seated.

Parents are welcome to come in the building to pick up their children from the chapel or park along the curb for Rabbi Shara to walkie talkie in for the staff Dismissal captain to send the children out.

No children are permitted to leave the building without being called by walkie talkie or personally escorted by their parent or pickup adult.

If you are running late or a problem arises, please call Manya in our office at (518) 432-1392 or text Rabbi Shara (518) 281-4221.

Policy Regarding Food Allergies

The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education is committed to keeping all of our students safe. In order to fulfill this mission, we have adopted the following Nut Sensitive Policy.

Only pre-packaged **PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE** foods may be brought in by faculty and families to be shared.

NO HOME-BAKED GOODS MAY BE BROUGHT IN AND SHARED.



Foods brought in to be shared MAY NOT be manufactured in a facility that processes nuts.

The synagogue has a policy of not permitting shellfish or pork. Lard is a pork product; therefore any food brought in may not contain lard as an ingredient.

ALL FOODS brought in by faculty, staff and families to share MUST have labels read and checked by Rabbi Shara Siegfeld or Manya Monson.

All baked goods provided by the Religious School will be **peanut/tree nut free**, though they are prepared in a kitchen that is NOT nut free. When these baked goods are provided, there will be a pre-packaged allergy-safe snack provided for any student whose allergies require such.



We understand that students may bring in their own food for snacks, but we strongly encourage our families to be sensitive and considerate of classmates that may be endangered by exposure to certain ingredients.

All faculty will receive a class list detailing student allergies within their class. Please review this list at the start of the year and prior to providing a snack to your class. Be sure to speak with Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, our Director of Lifelong Learning, if you have any questions.

Student Responsibilities Regarding Allergies:

Student will not share or trade food with other students.

Student will not eat anything with unknown ingredients.

Student will promptly inform an adult should an accidental exposure occur and/or symptoms appear.



Parent Responsibilities for Children with Allergies:

Parent/Guardian will provide the following:

- In the event that an epi-pen is needed, medication orders from a physician on doctor's prescription.
- Parent's signed consent for medication administration, with detailed instructions where medication is located. On a separate form.
- At parent's discretion, and **with notification** to The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education a child can carry medication on his/her person while here at school for self-administration
- Description of the student's past allergic reactions, including triggers and warning signs; hospital preference; parental emergency contact information.
- A "safe box" with a few nonperishable treats. This may be used during classroom parties or for other events where food is served.

Religious School Responsibilities Regarding Allergies:

The school will provide a food allergy liaison who will be available to parents of students with food allergies should any questions arise. This year's representative is:

Manya Monson, phone: **518-432-1392**; email: School@BethEmethAlbany.org.

The school will train teachers and staff on the proper administration of an Epi-Pen and this information will be reviewed annually.

The school will train teachers to read food product labels and how to recognize food allergens.

The school will review with staff members the early detection of signs and symptoms of an accidental ingestion and will develop a quick response and an emergency plan.

A letter will be sent out, when applicable, informing other parents/classmates that a child has a potential life threatening allergy. This will be done in effort to minimize or eliminate exposure to the allergen from children's afternoon snack.

Teacher Responsibilities Regarding Allergies:

Teacher will inform other adults in the classroom (i.e. aides, student teachers) of student's food allergy and necessary safeguards.

Teacher will work to create a classroom climate that avoids endangering or isolating students with food allergies.

Teacher will contact parents of students with food allergies regarding lesson plans that use food and of events involving food.

Teacher will notify parents of field trip plans in effort to ensure the safety of children with food allergies while off premises.

ALL FOOD that is brought into the classroom to be distributed or used in a lesson must be checked by Rabbi Shara Siegfeld or Manya Monson.

READING RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Hebrew reading pods will be continuing remotely throughout this year for grades 3-6. Pods consist of 20-30 minute sessions of up to three students with a dedicated Hebrew specialist, meeting on an every other week schedule. Pods will be arranged outside of the regular learning times, at the convenience of the families.

TZEDAKAH

Tzedakah should be collected the first thing every Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon. It is to be collected in the blue Tzedakah Box which will be in your mail box.

Send the Tzedakah Box to the office as soon as all Tzedakah monies have been collected each class.

The class that collects the most Tzedakah by the end of the year wins a special treat for the class to share!



STUDENT PREPAREDNESS

Students should attend class regularly with the required books and supplies, and with homework completed.

Students should dress in a manner that shows respect for the sanctity of the synagogue. They should also dress in a manner that enables them to participate safely in all religious school activities.

It is expected that there will be homework, either studying or writing, assigned in the Religious School. **Students in our Hebrew program grades 3 through 7 are expected to practice reading aloud 20 minutes weekly, in addition to their participation in their bi-weekly Reading Pod.**

If a student is habitually unprepared or regularly fails to bring learning materials and supplies to class, the classroom teacher will notify the parent. If necessary, a meeting will be arranged if the problem is not corrected.

If further action needs to be taken, it will be at the discretion of the Rabbi and the Director of Lifelong Learning.

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

1. If a student is so disruptive that the teacher is prevented from teaching the class, please Walkie Talkie "Rabbi Shara to __ grade, please."
2. The Director of Lifelong Learning will speak with the student about proper behavior in our Religious School. If the violation has been flagrant, the person in charge will immediately notify the parent.
3. At the discretion of the Rabbi, Cantor or Educator, the student may be sent back to class or kept out of class for the remainder of the session.
4. If the student continues to be disruptive and is sent to the office three times, the Rabbi or Educator will arrange for a meeting with the parent. If, after discussion with the parent, no satisfactory solution is reached, the student will be suspended from the school for a period of time or for the balance of the school year.

PHONE POLICY

We expect cellphones to be stored, physically off of students and not distracting in their desk area, throughout their time at CBE. Cell phones are to be stored and face down during classes. At no time should students be using their phones or other electronics for texting, calls, or gaming during learning time, *unless* there is a classroom activity calling for such usage.

6th & 7th Grade Shabbat Program



For our B'nai Mitzvah students, we have an added calendar of Saturday Morning Shabbat Programs. These sessions help reinforce their Religious School learning, learn the Bimah choreography, and prepare them for their B'nai Mitzvah. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child(ren) so that the entire family is exposed to the service a few times in preparation for the BIG DAY! Each pod is expected to attend 3 Saturday morning Shabbat Programs.

The dates are as follows:

October 21	Spring Pod Program 1
November 4	Spring Pod Program 2*
December 16	Spring Pod Program 3
January 20	Spring Pod Program 4
February 17	Fall Pod Program 1
March 23	Fall Pod Program 2
April 23	Fall Pod Program 3*

**D'var Torah Workshop*

Ruach Shabbat

Once a month we change the format of our Friday night services to be even more family friendly. Infused with music, stories, classes leading prayers, and birthday blessings, we encourage everyone to join in the fun of welcoming Shabbat with music and spirit. Beginning with our there will be a pre-neg snack and mingle at 5:00 pm before our 5:30 pm service. Following the service, our spectacular CBE Brotherhood, offers a fabulous dinner to enjoy with your CBE family (Registration in advance is required for dinner).

This year's dates are as follows:

Nov 4: Featuring Grade 6
Dec 8: Chanukah Celebration featuring Jr. Choir
Jan 12: Featuring Grades 4-5
Feb 2: Featuring Grades K-1
Mar 1: Featuring Jr. Choir
Apr 12: Featuring Grades 2-3
May 3: Featuring Jr. Choir

Grades 8-9 Leadership Development Programming

This year at The Einhorn Center for Jewish Education at Congregation Beth Emeth we are delighted to have our student rabbi, Spencer Mandell, from HUC in Manhattan working with our 8th and 9th graders to develop leadership, communication, and Jewish literacy skills. This learning program is designed to engage students in meaningful conversation with their peers, and help students to grow as young Jewish leaders. Spencer has a passion for working with teens, and is excited to help students explore and develop their own spiritual identities.

This year's dates are as follows:

October 22
November 5
December 17
January 28
February 11
March 3
April 14
May 5 (brief meeting)

All sessions, except May, will run from 9:45 am-11:45 am.

Junior Choir

Does your child like to sing and perform? Starting after the High Holy Days, we are delighted to have Cantor Short bringing back our Junior Choir! Open to grades K-6, Junior Choir rehearsals will be held during religious school on Sunday mornings. All interested students are welcome to try it out and join the fun! Junior Choir will have the opportunities to perform at the CBE Chanukah celebration, some Ruach Shabbat services, holidays, and our closing day of school festivities.



B'nai Mitzvah Projects

Preparing for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, what is expected for a B'nai Mitzvah project?

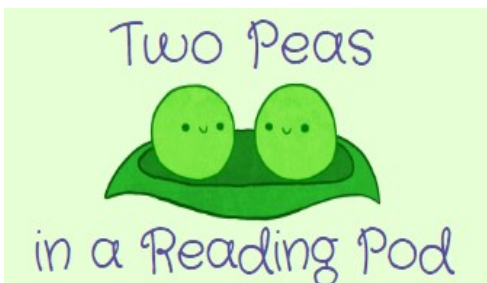


Within the grade 7 B'nai Mitzvah preparation program, students will be learning about mitzvot, both ethics and ritual commandments, and the importance of community involvement. Students will be guided by their teachers to explore various mitzvah projects including some which directly benefit the CBE community such as: volunteering in Diane's Farm, volunteering with CBE at the

Soup Kitchen, ushering for services, being one of our madrichim (teen aides) in our school, volunteering at our annual garage sale, volunteering service hours assisting any of our CBE staff or affiliate organizations. There are also opportunities to get involved in the larger community, such as project with area seniors, learning about advocacy and writing letters through the Religious Action Center on issues of interest, or creating your own project with the support of our learning team. We are looking forward to working together to make the Mitzvah project a low stress, meaningful experience for the entire family.



Hebrew Reading Pods Grades 3-6



In order to provide each of our students the support, enrichment, and individualized attention required to build competency and comfort with Hebrew reading fluency, each student in grades 3-6 is scheduled for a one on one or one on 2 Hebrew Reading Pod with one of our Hebrew language specialists. These pods meet every other week for 20-30 minutes and are scheduled at the convenience of families (M-Th between 3:00 pm-6:00 pm, not during religious school hours). Signup information will be emailed to all registered families after the first week of school and pods will begin meeting after the High Holy Days, in October.



Primary Department

Sundays 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Overarching Value: Seder (Order & Stability)

Arba For FOURS!

Learning Goals

- Have Jewish Friends
- Participate in the Kehillah (Our Jewish Community)
- Care about and connect with Israel
- Understanding the meaning and performance of Jewish Mitzvot
- Comprehend and utilize basic Hebrew words and Jewish terminology.
- Experience Jewish arts and culture
- Experience the joy of the Jewish holiday cycle

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat candle Blessings

Dates:

Oct 1 and 22	Jan 7 and 21	Apr 14 and 21
Nov 5 and 19	Feb 4 and 11	May 5
Dec 10 and 17	Mar 10 and 24	

Kindergarten

Learning Goals

- Have Jewish Friends
- Participate in the Kehillah (Our Jewish Community)
- Care about and connect with Israel
- Understanding the meaning and performance of Jewish Mitzvot
- Comprehend and utilize basic Hebrew words and Jewish terminology
- Experience Jewish arts and culture
- Experience the joy of the Jewish holiday cycle

Prayer Goals

- Motzi Blessing
- Shema
- Blessing for the Shabbat Candles
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles

Children will experience and explore the:
basic concept of tzedakah through hands-on projects and activities.
beauty of Judaism through song, dance, arts & crafts, food, puzzles, games, puppetry, and dramatics.
beauty of Jewish worship through age-appropriate Tefillah (prayer) Services held in our Beit Tefillah with our Clergy

Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, Director of Lifelong Learning
Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Senior Rabbi
Cantor Emily Short
Spencer Mandell, Student Rabbi



Primary Department

Sundays 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Overarching Value: Seder (Order & Stability)

Grade 1

Learning Goals

- Have Jewish friends and engage with Jewish role models and personalities
- Participate in the Kehillah (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world
- Care about and connect with Israel
- Understanding the meaning and performance of Jewish Mitzvot and appreciate Tikkun Olam as a core Jewish value and perform gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness)
- Comprehend and utilize basic Hebrew words and Jewish terminology.
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Experience the joy of the Jewish holiday cycle.

Prayer Goals

- Motzi Blessing
- Shema and Bar'chu
- Blessing for the Shabbat Candles
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Saturday Morning Kiddush

Grade 2

Learning Goals

- Have Jewish friends and engage with Jewish role models and personalities
- Participate in the Kehillah (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world
- Care about and connect with Israel
- Understanding the meaning and performance of Jewish Mitzvot and appreciate Tikkun Olam as a core Jewish value and perform gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness)
- Comprehend and utilize basic Hebrew words and Jewish terminology, beginning Hebrew letter recognition and beginner decoding
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Experience the joy of Shabbat and Havdalah as well as the Jewish holiday cycle.

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Shema and Bar'chu
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom

Children will experience and explore the:
basic concept of tzedakah through hands-on projects and activities.
beauty of Judaism through song, dance, arts & crafts, food, puzzles, games, puppetry, and dramatics.
beauty of Jewish worship through age-appropriate Tefillah (prayer) Services held in our Beit Tefillah with our Clergy

Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, Director of Lifelong Learning
Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Senior Rabbi
Cantor Emily Short
Spencer Mandell, Student Rabbi



Elementary Department

Sundays 9:30 am-12:00 pm & Wednesdays 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

Grade 3

Learning Goals

- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators
- Recognize the role wrestling with God has played in Jewish life
- Participate in various Jewish customs and holidays and appreciate their history and meaning
- Comprehend, utilize and decode Hebrew words and Jewish terminology
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Shema and Bar'chu
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom
- Shehecheyanu
- Mi Shebeirach

Overarching Value:
Hodaya (Gratitude)

Grade 4

Learning Goals

- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators
- Recognize the role wrestling with God has played in Jewish life
- Participate in various Jewish customs and holidays and appreciate their history and meaning
- Comprehend, utilize and decode Hebrew words and Jewish terminology
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Shema and Bar'chu
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom
- Shehecheyanu
- Mi Shebeirach
- Full Friday Night Kiddush
- Havdalah Blessings

Overarching Value:
Hakarat Hatov
(Recognizing the Good/Appreciation)

Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, Director of Lifelong Learning
Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Senior Rabbi
Cantor Emily Short
Spencer Mandell, Student Rabbi



Elementary Department

Sundays 9:30 am-12:00 pm & Wednesdays 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

Grade 5

Learning Goals

- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators
- Participate in various Jewish rituals, customs, holidays, lifecycle events, and appreciate their history and meaning
- Comprehend, utilize and decode Hebrew words and Jewish terminology
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world
- Care about and connect with Israel

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Shema and Bar'chu
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom
- Shehecheyanu
- Mi Shebeirach
- Full Friday Night Kiddush
- Havdalah Blessings
- Avot V'Imahot and G'vurot

Family Education

Sunday, January 21: Israeli Luncheon
Wednesday, February 7: Circumcision and Naming
Wednesday, February 28: Mikvah at the Albany JCC
Sunday, March 10: Death and Dying Workshop
Sunday, March 17: Cemetery Tour
Sunday, April 10: Mock Wedding

Overarching Value:
Yirat Shamayim (Awe of God)

Grade 6

Learning Goals

- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators
- Participate in various Jewish rituals, customs, holidays, lifecycle events, and appreciate their history, meaning and personal relevance
- Comprehend, utilize and decode Hebrew words and Jewish terminology
- Experience Jewish arts and culture, and partake in Jewish culinary traditions
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world
- Care about and connect with Israel

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Barchu, Shema and V'havta
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Friday Night and Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom
- Shehecheyanu and Mi Shebeirach
- Havdalah Blessings
- Avot V'Imahot and G'vurot
- Before and After Torah Blessings

Shabbat Morning Program Dates:

Spring Pod: Oct 21, Nov 4*, Dec 16, Jan 20

Fall Pod: Feb 17, Mar 23*, Apr 13

**D'var Torah Workshop*

Overarching Value:
Kehillah (Community)

Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, Director of Lifelong Learning

Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Senior Rabbi

Cantor Emily Short

Spencer Mandell, Student Rabbi



Secondary Department

Grade 7 - Wednesdays, 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

Grades 8-9 - Sundays, 9:45 am-11:45 am (once a month)

Grade 10 - flexible dates and times arranged with Rabbi Weitzman

Grade 7

Learning Goals

- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators
- Explore divinity through theology, prayer, study, or other spiritual practices
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to Jews around the world
- Understand the meaning and performance of Jewish mitzvot and appreciate Tikkun Olam as a core Jewish value and perform gemilut chasadim (acts of loving kindness)
- Engage with Jewish role models

Prayer Goals

- Motzi and Shabbat Candle Blessings
- Barchu, Shema and V'ahavta
- Blessings for the Chanukah Candles
- Friday Night and Saturday Morning Kiddush
- Ma Nishtana and Mah Yafeh Hayom
- Shehecheyanu and Mi Shebeirach
- Havdalah Blessings
- Avot V'Imahot and G'vurot
- Before and After Torah Blessings
- V'shamru

Shabbat Morning Program Dates:

Spring Pod: Oct 21, Nov 4*, Dec 16, Jan 20

Fall Pod: Feb 17, Mar 23*, Apr 13

**D'var Torah Workshop*

Grades 8 and 9

Learning Goals

- Regard Judaism as a relevant source of wisdom for their questions about life and its meaning
- Be able to identify critical issues facing American Jewry and be motivated to act on them
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to the Jews around the world
- Engage with Jewish role models

Program Dates:

Oct 22, Nov 5, Dec 17, Jan 28,
Feb 11, Mar 3, Apr 14, May 5 (brief meeting)

Grade 10

Learning Goals

- Regard Judaism as a relevant source of wisdom for their questions about life and its meaning
- Be able to identify critical issues facing American Jewry and be motivated to act on them
- Participate in the Kehilla (Our Jewish Community) and feel connected to the Jews around the world
- read and interpret sacred and historical texts and be able to discern Jewish core narratives and values within them
- Feel part of a chain of Jewish tradition, as both recipient and co-creators

Rabbi Shara Siegfeld, Director of Lifelong Learning

Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Senior Rabbi

Cantor Emily Short

Spencer Mandell, Student Rabbi

Einhorn Center for Jewish Education at Congregation Beth Emeth Emergency Procedures:

Procedure for a threat within the building - Lock Down

A lock down is implemented when an intruder has entered the building; students, faculty and staff are trained to report to their "safe area" in rooms, which is not visible from the hallway windows. Doors are locked and the class remains silent until the "All Clear" signal is given.

1. There will be an announcement over the loud speaker "**Lock down in Rooms**".
2. Upon hearing the message, all students are directed to their designated "safe areas" within the classrooms (by the cubbies on the same wall as the door)
3. Anyone with an alarm button, press it
3. Lock classroom or office door and shut the lights if you can
4. Bring your cellphones with you to the safe area and set them to vibrate
Advise all students to do the same if they have a phone with them.
5. All should remain **silent** until the "All Clear" is announced on the intercom
6. Police officials say that once your door is shut and locked, you should not open it for any reason until the "All Clear"
7. If anyone find themselves in the bathroom during a lockdown, they should hide in a stall, lock the door and lift their feet so they cannot be seen (standing on the toilet if needed)
8. If anyone finds themselves in the hallway during lockdown, they should go to the nearest classroom or bathroom and lock themselves in.
9. If you are outside with a class, take them to girls academy, behind their building
10. Parents will be notified of the situation as we are able.

Procedure for a threat from outside - Lock Out

A lockout is required when there is a clear and present danger within close proximity to the building. In the event of a lock out, there will be an intercom announcement indicating how severe the threat is:

The announcement "**Lockout, move to safe rooms**" would be for a **Level 1 Lockout**

LEVEL 1 - Immediate Threat - Level 1 lockouts are invoked when there is a clear and present danger immediately outside the building

Level 1 Lock out requires suspension of all outdoor activity

All classes are to move to their safe room with no clear windows to the outside:

Classrooms 1-12 all move to the Children's Chapel

All other classes move to the Adult Chapel

Any other areas move to the Large Social Hall

PRESS YOUR PANIC BUTTON

Parents will be notified of the situation as we are able.

Einhorn Center for Jewish Education at Congregation Beth Emeth Emergency Procedures:

The announcement “**Close your blinds please**” for a **Level 2 Lockout**

LEVEL 2 - Possible Threat - All outdoor activities are suspended until further notice. All doors and windows are locked and blinds drawn. Students are not released from classrooms until the “All Clear” is given. A Level 2 Possible Threat would be called if for example there were a robbery in the area or a suspicious individual in the neighborhood - as directed by contact from the police department.

Parents will be notified of the situation as we are able.

Fire Procedure and Evacuation Procedure

Fire Evacuation and Evacuation for anything else will be announced by fire alarm

Teachers should take the emergency folder with them from the plastic pockets by the classroom doors and cellphones.

Classes should file out of the building quickly and quietly out the closest exterior doors –

Discoveries Room and Arba Classroom exit the closest exterior doors, HACD Entrance

Classrooms K-2 exit out your classroom outside door.

Classrooms 1-12 exit through the door by the children’s chapel

Classes meet in the back grass by Diane’s Farm by Grade. Teachers count students and hold up red or green cards to indicate all present or not.

Rabbi Shara or the Emergency Captain will take an accounting of all classes - and determine if we need to invoke the evacuation move to the Girls Academy building.

Further Direction will be given on site

Parents will be notified of the situation as we are able.

Move to Girls Academy Building:

Once Rabbi Shara or the Emergency Captain take an accounting of all classes and tell faculty that we will be moving everyone to the Girls Academy building, Rabbi Shara or Emergency Captain will lead classes quickly and quietly to the Girls Academy.

Further Direction will be given on site

Parents will be notified of the situation as we are able.

INTERVENTION PROCEDURES for BEHAVIOR

Jewish children are not immune to emotional, behavioral, and family problems. It is therefore in keeping with the mission of Congregation Beth Emeth for all staff to be acutely attuned and attentive to signs of a student struggling with emotional or behavioral problems beyond normal limits. In our tradition of Tikkun Olam and Gemilut Chasadim, it is imperative that we be sensitive to the needs of our growing and developing students and facilitate parental and even professional intervention when necessary.

Behaviors Requiring Intervention:

- Written, verbal, or behavioral threats of self harm, wishes for death, or apprehension about living.
- Fits of anger, rage, and tantrums, particularly those that become physically threatening and dangerous to the student or others, including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, slapping, shoving, punching, or choking.
- Running away behavior to avoid an activity or discipline.
- Any behavior or talk that has a sexually suggestive connotation, inappropriate to the student's developmental level.
- Severe social isolation and/or refusal to be involved in group activities.
- Any significant and sustained change in personality or classroom behavior.
- Any behavior that constitutes a threat to the safety and security of any and all students.

Intervention Procedures:

- In the case of any behavior that poses an immediate threat to the student in question or to other students, the teacher shall walkie talkie call for immediate assistance to their classroom.
- The Director, clergy, or a professional staff person will go directly to the classroom to assist the teacher.
- The child will be escorted from the classroom as quickly as is feasible and taken to a quiet office. The Director of Lifelong Learning, clergy or professional staff member will work with the student one on one to defuse the situation, calling the parents if determined to be immediately necessary.
- The teacher will remain in the classroom with the rest of the class and maintain order, which make include taking time to discuss what just occurred and their feelings. Such discussions should include students' ideas about appropriate or alternative behaviors or ways to problem solve or resolve conflict. Additionally, if at all possible, the teacher should tie in Jewish values lessons in this context.
- In the case of behaviors that do not pose an imminent threat, but nonetheless raise concerns about the child's emotional status, the teacher will talk with the Director of Lifelong Learning as soon as feasible, but no later than at the end of school on that particular day. If the Director is unavailable on that day, a clergy person should be sought out.

INTERVENTION PROCEDURES for BEHAVIOR (continued)

- Following such discussion, the Director of Lifelong Learning will determine if an intervention is necessary. The Director will in turn contact the parents of the student to discuss the raised concerns and whether an in-school intervention is necessary.
- An in-school intervention could consist of a behavior management plan, a behavioral contract with the student which spells out expected behaviors and consequences if the contract is broken, parent teacher conference, or any other action that occurs within the school that the Director of Lifelong Learning deems appropriate.
- The Director of Lifelong Learning has the discretion to restrict a student from school until help is sought and/or underway if the Director feels that the student's behavior in the school context is potentially harmful or damaging to that student or other students.
- The Director of Lifelong Learning may involve a clergy person at any point in the process.
- At most, one month after the institution of in-school intervention, the Director of Lifelong Learning shall check with the teacher and/or parent(s) to see how things are progressing. Further follow-ups will be at the discretion of the Director.

Documentation

- Any time a teacher consults with the Director of Lifelong Learning about a child's behavior, an incident report should be completed. The report should include the name of the child, the date of the incident, date of the report, a short synopsis of the incident and/or concern, and the action taken.
- The one-month follow-up and any other follow-ups will be documented and will include the date of the follow-up, the nature of the follow-up, and a summary of the findings.
- All incident reports shall be filed and kept in a locked file cabinet in the Director's office.
- Files shall be accessible only to the Director of Lifelong Learning and clergy.
- Files shall be kept for five years.
- If requested by the parents, the Director of Lifelong Learning will communicate with any professional consulted by the family. However, before that communication can take place, the Director of Lifelong Learning will obtain a written release of information permitting such contact. The release of information will be kept with all other documentation and any contact with the designated professional will be noted in the documentation.

Classroom Map 2023-2024

