



Parent Information

2011 - 2012
5772

TBSONLINE.ORG
(856) 751-1824 office
(856) 751-2369 fax

Alex Weinberg,
Director of Congregational Learning
alexw@tbsonline.org

Dana Fallick
School Committee Chairperson
dana.starrfallick@comcast.net

1901 Kresson Road • Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

A Message From:

Rabbi Steven Lindemann Rabbi Micah Peltz & Cantor Jen Cohen



Dear Families:

In the Talmud we learn: *Talmud Gadol, She'HaTalmud May'vee Lee'day Ma'aseh* - "Study is great for it leads to action."

Our children's journey to becoming kind and confident Jewish adults begins and continues to be influenced by lifelong Jewish learning. For us, as Jews, learning is a value in and of itself. But learning leads to living in very direct ways.

A basic Hebrew vocabulary conveys concepts—*B'rakhah, Tzedakah*—an awareness of blessing and a commitment to charity are essential to Jewish life. From its opening words, *Torah* asks us to consider how God comes into our lives through an appreciation of the world around us, family stories, and what it means to be part of a covenant community through *Mitzvot*. By studying our people's history, and learning the hows and whys of Jewish living, we cultivate a strong Jewish identity and a deep connection with Israel and the Jewish people. Additionally, the Jewish values we learn teach us how to make a positive difference in our world and perhaps most importantly, how to be a *mentsch*.

We look forward to building rich and meaningful Jewish learning experiences together. It's going to be a great year.

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Steven Lindemann

Rabbi Micah Peltz

Cantor Jen Cohen

Message from Alex Weinberg

Director of Congregational Education



Dear Families:

We are very excited to welcome you back to another fabulous year in the TBS religious school (RS).

In this booklet you will find important policies and information about the religious school. If you have any questions, please contact me, alexw@tbsonline.org

Thank you for your partnership and your dedication to our community!

B'Shalom,

Alex Weinberg

Director of Congregational Learning

Religious School Faculty 2012



Debbie Bitman, Religious School Secretary,

debbieb@tbsonline.org

(856) 751-1824

Marsha Axler

marshaa@tbsonline.org

Harriet Baker

harrietb@tbsonline.org

Paula Bennett

paulab@tbsonline.org

Staci Boiskin

stacib@tbsonline.org

Robin Finkelstein

robinf@tbsonline.org

Lora Hellman

lorah@tbsonline.org

Judy Hymowitz

judyh@tbsonline.org

Hope Ivler

hopei@tbsonline.org

Sara Kreisman

sarak@tbsonline.org

Hedva Levin

hedval@tbsonline.org

Susan McDermet

susanm@tbsonline.org

Tracey Rebock

traceyr@tbsonline.org

Avra Seidman

avras@tbsonline.org

Claire Spechler

claires@tbsonline.org

Religious School Office Hours

Monday & Thursday:	9 am to 5 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday:	12:30 pm to 9 pm
Friday:	9 am to 3 pm
Sunday: (when in session)	9 am to 1 pm

Inclement Weather information

INCLEMENT WEATHER – SCHOOL #612

In case of inclement weather the Religious School will announce it's closing as follows: KYW Radio 1060 AM#612, Fox News Channel 7, and NBC Channel 10

IF CHERRY HILL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, THEN THE TBS RS IS CLOSED.

E-mails will also be sent to announce a school closing.

Class schedule

Gan--Kindergarten

Sunday 9 am to 10:50 am

Mechina Aleph--First Grade

Sunday: 9 am to 10:50 am or

Wednesday: 4:15 pm to 6:15 pm (students attending K Hebrew Enrichment)

Mechina Bet--Second Grade to Dalet--Sixth Grade:

Sunday: 9 am to 10:50 am and

Wednesday: 4 pm – 6:30 pm

Religious School Committee

Dana Fallick, Chairperson

Ruth Abrams

Allison Arking

Karen Baer, PA Co-Chair

Staci Boiskin

Marty Chazin

Margie Dannenbaum, VP of Education

Rena Essrog

Michelle Gershon

Jodi Gubman

Sherri Hoffman

Stephanie Krause

Beverly Lerner, Teen Education Director

Julie Levy, PA Co-Chair

Brett Rosenthal

Debbie Silverstone

Fran Stein

Alex Weinberg, Director of

Congregational Learning

Dismissal / Arrival

EARLY ARRIVAL

Children who arrive significantly early because of their public school schedule, should report to the Religious School Office so that we will be aware that they are in the building and may provide adequate supervision.

EARLY DISMISSAL & LATE ARRIVAL

Parents must come to the School Office to pick up their children early. At that time the school secretary will call for the classroom teacher to send the student to the office. Please be in touch with your child's teacher to inquire about classroom work that was missed.

Late Arrival - Students who are late for class must report directly to the Religious School Office to gain entry into the school wing.

School Policies



Attendance

Our teachers are faced with the incredible challenge of packing a lifetime of learning into a few sessions a week. It is crucial that our students attend all class sessions. Students who miss more than **12 sessions** in a year will be asked to do supplemental work and work with a tutor to complete classroom experiences. These tutoring sessions are not covered in our tuition fees and are the responsibility of the family.

Shabbat Attendance

All students in the Elementary School grades Aleph (3rd grade) through Dalet (6th grade) are required to attend Shabbat Morning Junior Congregation services 10 times a year.

Gan (K) to Mechina Bet (2) are encouraged to attend services.

Temple Beth Sholom provides three different children's services:

Gan (K) through Mehina Bet (2) students attend **Shabbat Enrichment**. Room 104
Aleph (3) and Bet (4) students attend **T'fillat Yeladim**. Beit Midrash
Gimel (5) and Dalet (6) students attend **K'nesset Noar**. Bike Room

Attendance records will be checked throughout the school year. Please note that Bar and Bat Mitzvah training and congregational B'nai Mitzvah participation may be impacted if a child does not attend the required amount of Shabbat services.

Family Programs

Family programs are designed to enhance classroom experiences and bring the family together in Jewish learning. These programs are fun, engaging and meaningful for everyone. Younger, pre-religious school age siblings are invited to attend family programming. At least one parent is expected to attend family programs with their child.

Kippot

All boys are required to wear kippot while in the synagogue. Girls are encouraged to wear kippot as well.

Behavior

Official policies for behavior are on file in the Religious School and will be provided upon request.

It is the responsibility of the entire school community - students, parents, teachers, and the director to share in encouraging and maintaining a standard of proper behavior in the school. Each must assume certain responsibilities in order to ensure that the rights of all are protected.

Food

Please send your child to religious school with a snack on Wednesdays or money to purchase a light snack. Snacks should be kosher, dairy, and nut free.

Tzedakah

A fundamental idea in Judaism is our responsibility for one another. In order to help our students perform this mitzvah, please send a little bit of money with your child to every Religious School class. Tzedakah will be collected and donated to worthy causes throughout the year.

Homework

The supplemental nature of religious school makes it necessary to reinforce material at home. We recognize that we compete with the extracurricular needs of the secular schools. Our teachers are aware of these and other demands on your child's time. They will assign reasonable amounts of homework to reinforce previously learned material and to give students a chance to respond creatively.

Field Trips

Appropriate trips to places of Jewish interest and importance will be planned. Parents will always be informed in advance of the trips and will be required to fill in a permission form. No child will be allowed to take a class trip without permission given by the parent.

Guests

We strive to create a safe classroom environment for our students, where they feel comfortable in our classes. Therefore, please do not send guests with your child (except for special community-wide events) without consulting the Director of Congregational Learning.

Cell phones

The use of cell phones by any student is not allowed during school hours. Please have all communication go through our religious school office so that the school is aware of any special family arrangements.

Dismissal

For the safety of our students, the doors to the school wing are closed during class time. Parents should wait in the school lobby to pick up their children after school. The doors to the school wing will be opened at the conclusion of the school day. Parents of Gan and Mechina Aleph students should pick their children up at their classroom doors.

All parents and children entering and leaving the school should do so ONLY by way of the Main Entrance, unless announced otherwise.

Parking Lot

Drop-off: If you are planning to drop your child off you must enter the parking lot using the Kresson Road driveway. Proceed through the parking lot to the "Drop-off Zone" which will be marked on the left side of the building. You can then exit the parking lot using the Cropwell Road driveway.

Pick Up: Parents are requested to park their cars in legally marked spots and come into the building to meet their children. Any cars that are stopped or parked illegally are subject to ticketing by the Cherry Hill Police Department.

Student Progress Reports

Temple Beth Sholom Religious School provides a written progress report two times a year for each student. These reports combine an evaluation and a description of each student's progress.

Youth Groups



Our Youth Groups are a GREAT way for your child to meet and socialize with friends in a FUN and SAFE atmosphere. Our groups are run by experienced youth group leaders who create exciting experiences for our students in a Jewish context. Don't miss out on the fun! Be sure to sign up for our youth group programs!

1 -2 grade	Shoreshim	Staci Boiskin, 856-428-1318
3- 4 grade	Haverim	Michelle Gershon, 856-795-6535
5-7 grade	Kadima	Allison Arking, 609-654-2951
8-12 grade	USY	Beverly Lerner, 856-751-1824

Special Needs Learning



We strive to create the most effective and meaningful learning environment for all of our students in our religious school. Our teachers will partner with the Director of Congregational Learning to create targeted learning approaches for all of our students. All students will be evaluated at the beginning of the school year and where necessary, advocates (teen tutors) will be assigned to help students. If your child has an IEP or other special arrangements in their secular school, please inform the religious school office so we can continue the learning approaches in our religious school. All information shared with the religious school is held in strict confidentiality and will only be used to help our students be successful in our programs.

Religious School Honor Roll

Requirements for Mehina Bet - Dalet Students
September - May

TO BE AN HONOR ROLL STUDENT:

- Accumulate 12 points by May 1
- Complete the full Shabbat attendance requirements by May 1
- Not exceed the allowed number of absences

POINTS EARNED:

- Attend Kabbalat Shabbat, Mincha Maariv, or Havdallah Service 2 points
- Read a portion of Torah at Junior Congregation 4 points
- Read a portion of Torah in Main Sanctuary 5 points
- Attend Shabbat morning service (Beyond 10 required) 2 points
- Attend morning Festival Service or religious Ceremonies 2 points
(Simhat Torah, Sukkot, Shavuot, Pesach, Brit, wedding)
- Attend Morning or Evening Minyan 2 points
- Participate in religious youth group programs 2 points / 3 events
- Visit a Jewish museum 2 points
- Share your Jewish holiday celebration with the school 2 points
Bring a picture. (**Shabbat- 5 different pictures, Chanukah-one night,
other holidays-one picture)
- Read one book with Jewish content and write a report, 2 points
draw a picture, make a project that tells what you like about the book
- Participate in or create a Hesed project 4 points
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies 2 Points
limit 2

Other activities may also earn points with the prior approval of the Director of Congregational Learning as decided on in a case-by-case basis.

Honor Roll students are listed in the Temple Talk at the end of the school year. Honor Roll students are also recognized with a certificate at an end of the year dinner.

Shabbat Services



What is our goal for a successful Junior Congregation?

The goal is to give our children a solid understanding of the regular Shabbat Morning Service in order to help them prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and their adult Jewish lives. Junior congregation provides the venue where students can apply the learning that takes place during the week.

For our Shabbat Enrichment, children can have a fun-filled service that fosters a love for prayer and ultimately the desire to come each Shabbat as they grow up.

What is Junior Congregation?

Junior Congregation is a mini-service that highlights those prayers your children learn in religious school. For our eleven and twelve year old students it is a great opportunity to practice and prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Numerous honors (opening the Ark, carrying the Torah, leading prayers, receiving aliyot, and reading Torah) are available to all children of all grades. This is done to encourage everyone to participate in the service.

Shabbat Enrichment, T'fillat Yeladim and K'nesset Noar are congregational programs for all of our children. Not only TBS Religious School students, but also children who attend Day Schools are encouraged to join our Junior Congregation.

Parents are invited to join their child in Junior Congregation services or to participate in services in the Main Sanctuary.

How should my child dress for Junior Congregation?

Since your children will be in a religious service and possibly leading part of the service, we request appropriate Shabbat attire (no sports uniforms, t-shirts, shorts, tank-tops or baseball caps).

Torah Reading

The highlight of the Shabbat Morning Service is the reading and discussing of the parshah (portion) of the week. Students have the opportunity to participate in this part of the service by learning to chant verses of the Torah according to the traditional trope (cantillation). No previous experience is necessary. Any student desiring to read Torah should contact either Mrs. Spechler (856-435-4609) or Mrs. Lindemann (856-424-4398) to arrange a date and a specific reading.

Each volunteer will be provided with a copy of the text and a tape from which to learn his/her assignment. Children who read Torah in one of the Junior Congregation Services are eligible to read Torah for the Congregational Service on the last days of Sukkot, Pesach, and Shavuot. Students reading Torah can also get points toward honor roll. Sign up sheets will also be posted in the Religious School office and distributed by teachers in class.



Main Phone Number - (856) 751-6663
Main Fax Number - (856) 751-2369
Religious School Phone Number - (856) 751-1824
Preschool Phone Number - (856) 751-0994

Rabbi Steven Lindemann
reblindy@aol.com

Rabbi Micah Peltz
ravmicah@tbsonline.org

Cantor Jen Cohen
cantorcohen@tbsonline.org

Executive Director, Eric Jacobs
ericj@tbsonline.org

Director of Synagogue Advancement, Jennifer Stofman
jennifers@tbsonline.org

Director of Congregational Learning, Alex Weinberg
alexw@tbsonline.org

Director of Teen Education, Beverly Lerner
beverlyl@tbsonline.org

Preschool Director, Ellen Berju
ellenb@tbsonline.org

President, Debbie Perlman
debbieperlman@verizon.net