

*Temple Kol Tikvah Of  
Lake Norman  
Parent/Student Handbook*

*2018-2019 - 5779*



*"The world stands upon three things: Torah,  
Worship and Loving Deeds." ~~ Pirkei Avot  
1:2*

# From the Rabbi

The world is upheld by the breath of students engaged in learning  
(Talmud Vavli, Shabbat 119b)

Our community believes that every Jewish child is entitled to an excellent Jewish education. Our entire community - parents, students, teachers, rabbis and community members - is charged with meeting this sacred obligation.

Jewish learning occurs during religious school, Shabbat and at home. In addition, Jewish summer camp is an invaluable experience that will enhance a child's understanding of and personal relationship to Judaism. URJ Camp Coleman and URJ Six Points (Jewish Sports camp) provide phenomenal summer camp experiences rivaling any secular camp, and they bring Judaism to life for our youth.

Thank you to all of you, parents, caretakers and families, for being partners in fulfilling the communal obligation of educating our children.

Shanah Tovah (May it be a good New Year)!

## **From the Education Director**

As we look forward to the start of a new school year in my second year as the principal, I am full of excitement and hope. My aim is to continue to build on the foundation that has been laid and add new facets and perspectives to enrich the education at our school.

We will be partnering with the ISJL (Institute for Southern Jewish Life) again by using their Judaic and Hebrew curriculums in our classrooms. We will also continue using the Behrman House on-line component for the at- home learning. Like last year, I am integrating the Hebrew in an easy-to-learn way much like the English method of using sight words. This will open the door to a whole new way of effortlessly learning to read Hebrew.

The feeling of *kehillah* (community) that our children derive from attending religious school is an important part of their Jewish identity and it is my goal to make this the strongest part of our education. This is the main reason to include an assembly after each Sunday school, so that all the grades come together and sing together as one community.

Thank you for your decision to make this journey with us.

I look forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

B'Shalom

Julia Schmidt

At Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman Religious School we are aware that not every child learns the same way. Should your child have any special needs that you feel need to be addressed, please don't hesitate to contact the principal. We go out of our way to accommodate the needs of your child, so that we can make Jewish education accessible to anyone who wants it.

## Our Curriculum

The ISJL Education Curriculum is a **spiraled curriculum**, in which students revisit key content areas with increased sophistication as they progress through the grades. The ten key content areas are: Jewish Holidays, God, Hebrew and Prayer, Israel, Jewish History, Jewish Lifecycle Events, Community, *Mitzvot*, Jewish Values and *Tanach* (*Torah*, Prophets, and Writings). The curriculum is developmentally appropriate, nurturing students' Jewish identity and equipping them to live rich and meaningful lives. Each grade has 28 two-hour lessons including Hebrew. There are a variety of activities in each lesson that implement the idea that students have different learning styles. **Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic** learning activities are used throughout each lesson.

The ISJL curriculum provides class-by-class lesson plans for each grade, which include both the big picture (big ideas and the objectives) and the nitty-gritty (supplies and other things to prepare). We have even provided a script and a time allocation for teachers who want further guidance in the classroom. I have also gone through each grade and adapted the curriculum to the needs of our children and prepared many activities and 'arts and crafts' for the lessons, so the teachers can use them straight away.

Each community is assigned a fellow who visits three times a year providing us with things such as, all school programs, service leading and anything else the community needs. Throughout the curriculum, students will continue to be exposed to these key content areas:

- **Community**

By being part of the religious school experience, students will feel a pride for their heritage as southern Jews and identify with the larger American and global Jewish community.

- **Culture and Symbols**

The ISJL curriculum provides students with the opportunity to experience the colorful culture of Judaism and the symbols. The students will develop a deeper understanding of Jewish culture as their religious school education builds.

- **God**

Religious school is a place where students can openly discuss their thoughts and feelings about God. Students will learn that throughout history Jews have explored their relationship with God.

- **Hebrew and Prayer**

During religious school students will have the ability to participate in synagogue prayer services and find personal meaning in them, recognizing Jewish worship as an essential facet of Jewish life and as an opportunity for self-discovery, self-assessment, and self-development.

- **Israel**

Throughout the curriculum, students learn to identify with Israel as the Jewish homeland, understanding its history and recognizing our obligation to visit and support the State of Israel, and consider participating in an educational program there.

- **Jewish History**

Students will develop a meaningful identification with Jews past and present through the study of Jewish history, culture, Hebrew language, liturgy, music, literature, arts, and texts.

- **Jewish Holidays**

Whether it is with the entire religious school at an All School Program or in each grade, students will familiarize themselves with the many rituals and traditions that are celebrated during Jewish holidays.

- **Jewish Lifecycle Events**

The spiraled curriculum allows students to mark the passages of time and seasons through Jewish lifecycle ceremonies using the symbols, rituals, prayers and traditions of their Jewish heritage.

- **Mitzvot and Jewish Values**

The ISJL curriculum provides students with a chance to view *mitzvot*-both Ritual and ethical-as opportunities to build a relationship with God.

- **Tanach (Torah, Prophets, and Writings)**

Through the religious school experience, students will recognize that Jewish education is a lifelong endeavor, one that involves a critical and inquiring approach, whereby the process of questioning is as valued and important as the quest for answers.

## **Our Classes**

### **Early Learner**

The early childhood curriculum provides young children with multi-sensory experiences that build a foundation for Jewish living. Students are exposed to Jewish values, first exposure to Hebrew letters and holidays and display their knowledge through age-appropriate means.

## **Kindergarten**

As students grow so does their understanding and appreciation of Judaism. In this year students learn about *mitzvot* (commandments) and how they can impact their lives. They will begin their exploration of God through activities and experiences. They will continue to study holidays, keeping *mitzvot* in the forefront, as well as more detailed exposure to Hebrew letters.

## **1<sup>st</sup> grade**

Students continue to build on their knowledge from Kindergarten. More time is devoted to development of Hebrew skill this year. Hebrew decoding skills are developed through games and other activities, with an emphasis on review and reinforcement of Hebrew letters.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

As students mature, they begin to delve deeper into exploration of Jewish life, greater skills and knowledge. Students will explore the Jewish community and their role in it. They will be exposed to a variety of activities that develop synagogue community through holidays, life cycle events and symbols associated with Jewish people and places. Students will also begin exploring Israel as their spiritual homeland. Students will continue to advance their Hebrew knowledge through letter writing, reading and Hebrew vocabulary.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

By this age students have progressed to being able to gain insight into the values and messages of the Torah. Spirituality will deepen this year as they develop Jewish God concepts and begin to think about their relationship with God. Students will also develop a deeper appreciation and

understanding of holidays. The focus of Hebrew in this grade is decoding: putting the Hebrew letters and vowels together to make sounds, words and phrases.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> grade**

In this grade students continue to explore spirituality and gain insights into the meanings of the stories of Prophets and Writings. Students will develop an understanding of what it means to be a partner with God. Students will explore holidays with increasing sophistication as they learn the history of the holidays and the values they express. Hebrew focus will be on prayers said in the home and on identifying Hebrew roots to better understand words and phrases.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

By this age students are more mature and able to explore concepts of an intellectual and emotional nature. The curriculum meets their abilities with discussions and activities associated with milestone events and celebrations. Students will continue to build their relationship with Israel and recognize that Jewish values and experiences link all Jews. Hebrew focus will be on prayers said within the congregational service, exploring structure of prayers and when they are recited.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Students will begin to prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah both on an intellectual and spiritual level. Students will study the weekly Torah portions probing the text for multiple layers of

meaning. Students will also explore the concept of *mitzvah* - a divine commandment of obligation - and the relevance of mitzvot in their lives. Hebrew focus is on the Torah service and concluding prayers.

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade**

Students delve deeper into Jewish topics and understand them in a critical way while still respecting the active learning styles of 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will discuss the variety of ways holidays are celebrated in the Jewish world today. They will also examine the Prophets and Writings and learn to explore the texts for their multiple layers of meaning. They will continue to develop their Hebrew reading skill and learn to read and recite prayers of the Torah service and concluding prayers. Hebrew focus will be on Shabbat prayers and reciting of Torah/Haftorah portions.

### **Madrichim (Guides): Post B'nei Mitzvah Student Teachers**

Like becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Madrichim take on responsibilities as adults in the Jewish community. The program enables Madrichim to give back to the community that has given them so much. Their job is two-part: being involved as teachers by working with students, role modeling appropriate behavior and showing enthusiasm, as well as learning from other teachers' examples.

In addition to their participation in the classes, the Madrichim also have a curriculum designed especially for them. This year is based on community service and service projects for Israel.

## **What to Bring**

- 1. Tzedakah money**
- 2. Water bottle**
- 3. Weekly binder**

Teachers will not be sending home supply lists this year. If you would like to contribute something to the school, a gift card to Target, Walmart or Staples would be greatly appreciated. However, we can always use glue sticks and bottles!

## **What NOT TO bring**

- 1. No student may bring medication of any kind, unless the school has been notified.**
- 2. No toys, sports equipment or electronics.** If they are found they will be taken away and returned to the parent.
- 3. No active cell phones** are to be brought into religious school. If a cell phone rings in class it will be taken away and returned only to a parent. **No texting is permitted in school.**

## **Rules and Important Information**

1. School begins **promptly** at 9:30. Please make sure your child is seated in class and ready to begin by that time.
2. Parents will walk their child into the building. **No student may walk through the parking lot.**
3. **Students may not wait outside** for their friends to arrive.
4. In order to accomplish our academic goals, we discourage early pick-ups.
5. Students **MUST** be signed out by parent or other adult authorized by parent. **NO CHILD IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING UNACCOMPANIED DURING RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS.**
6. Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman requires 80% attendance and 90% completion of paper and on-line homework assignments each school year. This year there will be a new incentive for children to reach their goals in reading Hebrew. Each grade will have a grade-specific list in the take home folder of the different levels of reading Hebrew the child can strive to achieve throughout the school year. After each level has been reached the child receives a colored token representing that level. Students of each grade that accomplish all levels required will receive a special ice-cream. This will encourage students to practice Hebrew. Homework and reading practice are essential components to learning Hebrew. **We make this journey together with you the parents and trust you will support your children and ensure that they do the necessary practice at home so that they can read Hebrew by the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.** This is a major component of being ready to prepare for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

7. Only registered students of Temple Kol Tikvah religious school are permitted to attend class. Please refrain from bringing guests to class.

## **Religious School Service Credit Policy and Procedure**

Attending class is only 50% of the religious school requirement. It is our policy that each student will attend a specified number of Shabbat services. We will be making each Grade-Shabbat a very special event this year and encourage all grades to attend each time and be part of enjoying the effort put in by their fellow students to make Shabbat special. This will be a big part in contributing to building our community. The service credit requirements indicated below represent the minimum attendance required for the school year (August - June). You are always welcome/encouraged to attend more than the minimum!

<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Yearly Service Requirement</b>
(EL)	7 (Tikvah Tots)
(Kindergarten)	7 (Tikvah Tots)
(1 <sup>st</sup> Grade)	7
(2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades)	7
(4 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	7
(5 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	7 (at least 2 Saturday morning)
(6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	7 (at least 4 Saturday mornings)

Each time your child attends services please make sure they sign in, by stamping their card with the correct date (date stamps will be with the cards) and return their card to its spot in the catalog. If your child attends services at another synagogue, please provide written documentation from the office of the synagogue you attended.



The next pages are extremely important!! Please read them first and then go over them with your child(ren).

We at Temple Kol Tikvah of Lake Norman are cognizant of the fact that six days of school is a lot for young children. Our schedule has built in movement, discussion, games and projects to educate and keep your child interested. We expect our students to follow the rules, listen to the teachers and be productive citizens of our Kehillah (community).

We feel that in Religious School, just as in other school settings, disruptive behavior impairs the teachers' abilities to teach and the students' abilities to learn. We want your child to receive the maximum Religious School experience and, therefore, have adopted the following Behavior Policies. This policy only works with parental cooperation.

**Students are required to:**

- Attend school regularly with supplies needed for each class.
- Behave with decorum befitting a House of God and Worship in the hallways, classrooms, lavatories, and

**Sanctuary.**

- Behave here as they are required to in their secular school. Please be supportive of your child's teacher. If called by them to discuss your child's behavior, please try to remember that their goals are to provide the best Religious School experience possible.

The following rules are based on the above:

1. **No student may orally threaten or abuse a teacher or another student.**

**Consequences:** Any student who threatens or verbally abuses any person in this building will be suspended for two sessions of school. If the offense is repeated, it may be grounds for expulsion.

2. **No student may bring cigarettes, tobacco products, lighters or matches to Religious School.**

**Consequences:** This is grounds for immediate expulsion.

**3. No student is permitted to interrupt teaching, nor another student's learning. Behavior that is not in the best interest of the student or the class (in the sole judgment of the teacher and/or Director) will not be tolerated.**

**Consequences:** You will be notified of such behavior and we ask that you reinforce the situation at home so that the behavior does not recur. If the behavior recurs, a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled with the possibility of a suspension, if the situation cannot be abated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We are all working together for the same purpose, to maximize your child's Jewish education.