

Temple Beth Shalom  
Religious School

# Parent Handbook

2010-2011  
(5771)

1461 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.  
Arnold, MD 21012  
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# General Information

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**Address:** 1461 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd.  
Arnold, MD 21012

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9AM to 5PM  
Friday 9AM to 3PM

**Class Times:** Sunday (all classes) 9:30AM to 11:30AM  
Wednesday 6:30PM to 8PM

**Canteen:** Wednesday 6:15PM to 7:00PM

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# A Personal Welcome

I am so delighted that you have chosen to enroll your child in our Religious School. We believe that educating our children is one of our top priorities at Temple Beth Shalom. In our pursuit to lead our congregation to a more dedicated, sincere, committed, and passionate Jewish life, we know that education must be primary.

Throughout the history of our people, we have held learning close to our heart. Ever since the second temple was destroyed in 70 CE, worship and learning have stepped to the forefront of Jewish tradition. In fact, our sages teach us that “*Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam*,” Jewish learning is the most important *mitzvah*, because it leads to the observance and practice of every other Jewish value.

And so, we are eager to accept the challenge of teaching your children. In many ways, the religious school at our congregation is not like you remember it in your day. Instead of children dreading the thought of learning, they are excited about the prospect of coming inside the walls of our synagogue. Perhaps it is because we are consistently coming up with new and creative ways to teach. We are constantly renewing ourselves and refreshing our methods. Our teachers pride themselves in their ability to create an atmosphere that is both loving and supportive. And, they fulfill their mission to teach at a level for all to understand while challenging each student to reach just beyond his and her grasp.

Of course, if the only Jewish learning that your child gets is inside the synagogue, most likely it will be lost. Parents and teachers must enter into a divine partnership if the education is to have lasting effects. Therefore, I challenge you to reinforce what your child is learning. I guarantee that your small investment will pay major dividends in the long term.

I am excited about the school year and hope that we can work together to make it a time of growth, discovery, and significance for your child.

*Rabbi Ari Goldstein*

# Message from the Religious School Director

**W**elcome to Temple Beth Shalom Religious School. We have prepared this Parent Handbook for you so you will have the majority of information about the coming year at your fingertips. If you would please take a few moments to look through this handbook, you will find many answers to questions about our school.

Included is a tear-sheet calendar for the year (updates will be sent via email), curriculum information for all grades Kindergarten through tenth, policies including the most up-to-date regarding the H1N1 flu, and information about upcoming activities for the year. Also included is a list of our faculty, their classrooms and members of the Religious School committee.

We are so glad that your child is joining over 250 other Jewish children of Anne Arundel County and other counties nearby in our school. We meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm with the canteen available from 6:00 pm until 7:15 pm. Sunday classes will be held from 9:30 – 11:30 am.

This year is my 8<sup>th</sup> year that I am honored to be your Director of Education at Temple Beth Shalom. The teachers, *madrichim* (assistants), rabbi, student cantor and I are here to help ensure that your child receives a Jewish foundation rich in values, Hebrew language, Torah studies, history of our people and a love of Judaism. We are partners with you in this endeavor of educating your child and we ask that you, the parent, participate with your child in *Mishpacha* (family education) programs and come with your child to Shabbat services.

My door is open to discuss your suggestions or concerns regarding your child and our Religious School.

With sincerest wishes from my family to yours for a *shana tova*, a good, happy, successful and loving new year,

*Ellyn Becker Kaufman*

# Goals of Reform Jewish Education

The goal of Jewish education within the reform movement is the deepening of Jewish experience and knowledge for all reform Jews in order to strengthen faith in God, love of *Torah*, and identification with the Jewish people through involvement in the synagogue and participation in Jewish life. We believe that Judaism contains answers to the challenges and questions confronting the human spirit and that only a knowledgeable Jew can successfully discover these answers.

The UJR-CCAR Joint Commission of Jewish Education therefore calls upon every synagogue to provide a program of Jewish education that will enable children, youth, and adults to become:

- Jews who affirm their Jewish identity and bind themselves inseparably to their people by word and deed.
- Jews who bear witness to the *brit* (the covenant between God and the Jewish people) by embracing the *Torah* through study and observance of *mitzvot* (commandments) as interpreted in the light of historic development and contemporary liberal thought.
- Jews who confirm their historic bond to *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel.
- Jews who cherish and study Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people.
- Jews who value and practice *tefillah* (prayer).
- Jews who further the causes of justice, freedom, and peace by pursuing *tzedek* (righteousness), *mishpat* (justice), and *chesed* (loving deeds).
- Jews who celebrate *Shabbat* and the festivals and observe the Jewish ceremonies marking the significant occasions in their lives.
- Jews who esteem their own person and the person of others, their own family and the family of others, their own community and the community of others.
- Jews who express their kinship with *K'lal Yisrael* (the Jewish community) by actively seeking the welfare of Jews throughout the world.
- Jews who support and participate in the life of the synagogue.

Such Jews will strengthen the fabric of Jewish life, ensure the future of Judaism and the Jewish people, and approach the realization of their divine potential.

## Mission of Temple Beth Shalom Religious School

The Religious School of Temple Beth Shalom seeks to provide a Jewish education to students from Kindergarten through confirmation (grade 10), which will foster knowledge, understanding, and love of *Torah*; familiarity with the Hebrew language and a strong sense of identity with Israel and the Jewish community; and lay a solid foundation for a commitment to practicing and studying Judaism and the teachings of the *Torah*.

### Outcomes:

- The ability to decode Hebrew and to translate root words found in prayers and daily life.
- The ability to participate in and understand the structure and liturgy of the Shabbat service and other worship services (in English and Hebrew).
- An understanding of the Jewish point of view in regard to ethics and values.
- Knowledge of the stories and teachings of the *Torah* and appreciation for its significance in Judaism.
- Knowledge of the history of the Jewish people from ancient and modern times.
- Knowledge of, and a strong connection with, the land, people, and history of Israel.

# Temple Beth Shalom Curriculum

**A**t Temple Beth Shalom we take Jewish education very seriously and have designed a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum to include Jewish history, ethics, values and Hebrew. The curriculum is enriched by a number of special programs. As a Reform Jewish congregation, Temple Beth Shalom believes in continuous learning: that is, the educational process does not stop with *b'nai Mitzvah*. To this end, our curriculum is divided into several age-specific components, each with its own objectives. Following is an overview of our curriculum for students from Kindergarten to grade 10.

## Primary Program (Kindergarten to Grade 3)

*Introduction to Temple Beth Shalom and Judaism.*

**Kindergarten: To See the World Through Jewish Eyes.** Students study holidays, *shabbat*, Jewish symbols, synagogue, the *shema*, *mitzvot*, ethics, Israel and values in addition to selected activities from the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) Primary Grades Curriculum. Students will learn the blessings recited over bread and wine and the first line of the *shema*. Students will know a vocabulary of approximately 50 Hebrew words and concepts. There will be a one-day *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on Israel designed for parent and child participation from 9:30AM to 11:30AM on May 15, 2011 and a consecration ceremony/*Simchat Torah* celebration for families to attend on September 29, 2010 at 6PM. Kindergarten students will also participate in a family service and *shabbat* dinner May 20, 2011

*Textbooks:* Jewish and Me—fall and spring  
Let's Celebrate (CD)  
Teach Me Torah (set 1)  
Let's Discover Israel

**1st Grade: Our Jewish Days, Places and Selves.** Our program emphasizes discovering and celebrating holidays, *Torah* stories, synagogue, *tzedakah*, God, Israel, prayer and the Jewish self as we relate to Jewish history. Students will review previously learned blessings and add the blessing over candles and for *Havdallah*. Students will know a vocabulary of approximately 75 Hebrew words and concepts. There will be a one-day *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on *Shabbat* from 9:30AM to 11:30AM October 17, 2010. First grade students will also participate in a family service and *shabbat* dinner May 20, 2011.

*Textbooks:* Let's Celebrate! Holiday booklets  
Let's Discover *Mitzvot*  
Teach Me Torah (set 2)  
My Hebrew Dinosaur

**2nd Grade: Our Jewish symbols, traditions, heritage and year.** Students study our homeland and concepts and ideas about the holidays, with stories relating to traditions of each. An extensive unit on Israel is planned using various texts. Students will review previously learned blessings and add the blessing over fruits. Students will develop a vocabulary of approximately 100 Hebrew words and phrases.

# Temple Beth Shalom Curriculum (cont'd)

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There will be a one-day *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on the topic “*Hanukkah*” from 9:30AM TO 11:30AM November 14, 2010. Second grade students will also participate in a family service and *shabbat* dinner March 25, 2011.

*Textbooks:* My Jewish Year  
Let’s Explore Being Jewish  
Shalom Aleph Bet  
Various Hebrew handouts

**3rd Grade: Being a Jew—Learning and Doing.** Authentic and moving retellings of the great Bible stories highlight their timeless moral and spiritual truths and enable us to relate them to the personal concerns of today’s children. We learn that we are partners with God. The Hebrew program introduces letters and continues the study of prayers and Hebrew vocabulary, while Jewish Studies emphasizes Torah and our relationship with G-d. Students will review previously learned blessings and add the blessing over vegetables. There will be a one-day *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on preparing for Passover from 9:30AM to 11:30AM April 3, 2011. Third grade students will also participate in a family *shabbat* service with a *shabbat* dinner on February 25, 2011.

*Textbooks:* Partners with God  
Alef Bet Mystery  
The Explorer’s Bible, book 1

## Intermediate Program (Grades 4 to 7)

*Emphasizes Hebrew and Jewish Studies and preparation for B’nai Mitzvah.*

**4th Grade: Living as a Jew.** Fourth grade students attend bi-weekly classes (Sundays and Wednesdays). Jewish Studies will be team taught with Hebrew studies. There will be a special ceremony for Fourth grade families to attend in the Spring to celebrate the students having not only learned all the Hebrew letters and vowels, but now ready for reading in a *siddur* (prayer book). This culminating program will include the families for a *Mishpacha* program on April 13 at 6:30 pm. Students continue Bible study of the Prophets and Jewish wisdom and values, Jewish ethics and *tzedakah*. Fourth grade students will also participate in a family service and *shabbat* dinner October 22, 2010. The Hebrew vocabulary expands to include over 150 words, terms and concepts.

*Textbooks:* Aleph Bet Quest, interactive Hebrew text  
The Explorer’s Bible, book 2  
The Be a *Mensch* Campaign  
*Machberet*

**5th Grade: Israel in the Life of a Jew—Past, Present, Future.** The Sunday program consists of two elements of Jewish studies and Hebrew. The Jewish Studies emphasize modern Israel and Jewish life cycle events. Students will participate in experiential programs from birth, baby naming, *brit milah*, consecration, *b’nai mitzvah*, and in addition to Hebrew study on Sundays and Wednesdays.

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Parents are encouraged to participate in these 5th grade family education programs.

# Temple Beth Shalom Curriculum (cont'd)

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Another highlight of the year will include the fifth grade wedding ceremony for students and parents on May 11, 2011. There will be many occasions for fifth grade students to gather - some occasions with parents, some without parents. Fifth grade students will also participate in a family service and *shabbat* dinner on December 17, 2010.

*Textbooks:* Welcome to Israel  
*Hineni* I textbook and *Hineni* I workbook  
Book of Jewish Life  
*Machberet*

**6th Grade: Relating to our Biblical Past and Conversational Hebrew.** Students will be engaged in first-person monologues with over 20 Jewish leaders throughout Jewish history. Chapters on Hillel, Yochanan ben Zakkai, Rachel, Akiva, Judah HaNasi and others present leaders as role models of commitment and faith. In addition to our prayer program found in the *Hineni* series, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will engage in modern Hebrew text written especially for teens. 6th grade students will participate with Haz-zan Breitzer in special trope (chanting) classes on specified Sunday mornings. There will be a 6<sup>th</sup> grade *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on *b'nai mitzvah* on February 27, 2011 from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Sixth grade students will lead the Shabbat family service on January 2, 2011.

*Textbooks:* Pass the Torah, Please  
*Hineni* II, *Hineni* II Workbook  
Let's Talk, conversational Hebrew text  
Bible People Book 3, Prophets and Writings  
Zim Zoom  
*Machberet*

**7th Grade: Reform Judaism, Making a Difference in this World.** Students develop a basic understanding of this *mitzvah* of Reform Judaism. Students learn how doing *mitzvot* can help them achieve their own personal goals. In this grade, students prepare for their *b'nai mitzvah* and learn hands-on about doing mitzvot in the community. In addition to regular Sunday and Wednesday classes, students have private meetings with their *b'nai mitzvah* tutor and, as appropriate, learn *trope* (chanting). There will be a seventh grade *Mishpacha* (family education) program focusing on ethical *mitzvot* on February 6, 2011 from 9:30 AM to 11:30AM. Seventh grade students will lead the *shabbat* services, preceded by a *shabbat* dinner November 19, 2010.

*Textbooks:* Various History handouts  
*Hineni* III, *Hineni* III Workbook  
Making a Difference  
Zim Zoom  
*Machberet*

## Hebrew Goals

Our goals for the Hebrew program include enabling the student to participate actively in the Hebrew portions of *shabbat* and other worship services. Prayers and blessings have been designated to be learned in grades 4 to 7. We place a large emphasis on comprehension of the prayers by understanding key root words. Students will begin

# Temple Beth Shalom Curriculum (cont'd)

A prayer list that students are expected to know at the conclusion of each grade:

## Grade 4

Shema  
Ayn Kaloheinu  
Four questions (Passover)  
Hatikvah

## Grade 6

Avot V'Imahot  
G'Vurot  
Kedusha  
Shalom Rav  
Shema V'ahavta  
Sim shalom  
Oseh Shalom  
L'Cha Dodi  
Hatikvah  
Shalom Aleichem  
V'shamru  
Hoda'ah

## Grade 5

Shema, Barchu  
Yotzer Or  
Mi Chamocha  
Kiddush  
Hatikvah  
Ma'ariv Aravim  
Holiday blessings  
Everyday blessings  
Shema V'ahavta

## Grade 7

Ayn Kamocha  
Ki Mitzion  
Torah Blessings  
Haftarah Blessings  
Kaddish  
Al Shelosha Devarim  
Aleinu  
Aitz Hayim He

## Upper School Program (Grades 8 to 9)

**8th Grade: Teen issues, Jewish Heroes and Jewish Values.** What does it mean to be Jewish and in middle school in Anne Arundel County? We will be exploring Jewish values and what they mean in our lives. We will also look at how we use our Jewish values in everyday decision making that is relevant to our lives and how they have been used throughout history by famous people in the worlds of sports, science, film and politics. Students will tour Jewish American history from pre-Colonial America to the present. The eighth and ninth grade students will lead an 8PM *shabbat* service on Friday, January 8, 2010. Students are encouraged to join temple youth group activities.

*Textbooks:* Hot Topics

Challenge and Change, books 1 & 2

*Mah La'asot?* What should I do?

**9th Grade: Comparative Religions, Jewish identity, and Holocaust.** Ninth grade students will learn more about the Reform Jewish perspective by studying about other world religions. Students will learn about the Holocaust through works, as determined by our Holocaust specialist and teacher who comes to us from the Holocaust Museum, with a class trip to the Holocaust museum in Washington D.C. The eighth and ninth grade students will lead an 8PM *shabbat* service on Friday, January 8, 2010. Students are encouraged to join temple youth group activities.

*Textbooks:* Judaism and the World's Religion

How Do I Decide?

Various Holocaust publications

# Temple Beth Shalom Curriculum (cont'd)

## 10th Grade: Confirmation

Confirmation is an experience unique to the Religious School, which is team taught by Neil Schechter and Rabbi Goldstein. Students will discuss Jewish and ethical questions through the prism of both traditional and reform perspectives with Rabbi Goldstein. Students will discuss contemporary issues through the prism of current articles and ideas with Mr. Schechter. Confirmation culminates in the confirmation ceremony May 28, 2010.

*Textbooks:* various original texts, as per topic

## Enrichment (All Grades)

*At all grade levels, our curriculum is enriched by ongoing religious and cultural activities.*

**Art.** Our creative art specialist, Chrissy Palko, will teach and inspire our students through a variety of art projects four times a year.

**Music.** The student cantor and temple member volunteer Greg Weinman enhance our programs through song. We teach a musical curriculum revolving around holidays, *shabbat* services and Hebrew studies.

**Sunday Services (*Tefillah*).** Students in grades 4 to 7 attend *shiur* (teaching) services in the sanctuary each month. *Tefillah* is led by Student Cantor Joshua Breitzer, Robin Buchanan or Elyn Kaufman with students participating.

***Tzedakah* Projects.** Students are encouraged to bring money or non-perishable food to each session to help the needy. Each class selects recipients for the money collected each year.

**Religious Services.** Involvement in worship services is part of every Jew's life; therefore, we wish to familiarize our children with both *shabbat* and festival services as conducted at Temple Beth Shalom. Our upper-grade academic requirements

leading to the students' *b'nai mitzvah* include a specific number of services each student must attend. Students and their parents also are expected to usher services prior to the student's *b'nai mitzvah*.

**Israeli Dance.** We are fortunate that Ilanit Evers will teach Israeli dance classes to each grade several times over the course of the school year.

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We ask our children to come dressed in appropriate attire, showing respect to God, the service, and the sanctuary.

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# Extracurricular & Special Programs

*\*Temple Beth Shalom Shabbat services on Friday evening, or when available Saturday morning, check the newsletter for listings of dates and times.*

**T**hanks to the energy and talents of numerous people and organizations, The Temple Beth Shalom religious school is able to offer its students a variety of exciting special programs and activities, including grade level field trips, in-house family programs, the *Purim* carnival, model seders, and fun and educational youth group projects and outings.

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These various programs can only succeed with your help. We hope that you as parents will respond in a timely manner to deadlines and will participate and chaperone as needed.

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## Madrichim (Teacher Assistants)

After a student's *bar/bat mitzvah*, he/she is eligible to be a *madrich/a* in the classroom. These assignments are made during the summer. Interested students should contact the Director of Education and complete an application.

## Tot Shabbat & Family Services

A brief *tot shabbat* service is held monthly on Friday evenings for children from birth up to first grade. The services are held at 6PM. There is a congregational dinner offered from 6:30PM to 7:30PM, followed by family services at 7:30PM. Students will frequently participate in the family services. These are the scheduled dates for *tot shabbat* and family services (*\*subject to change, please refer to the temple newsletter for updated details*):

October 23, 2009 (4th grade leads)  
November 20, 2009 (7th grade leads)  
December 18, 2009 (3rd grade leads)  
January 8, 2010—adult service led by grades 8 & 9  
January 22, 2010 (6th grade leads)  
February 26, 2010 (2nd grade leads)  
March 26, 2010 (5th grade leads)  
April 23, 2010 (1st grade leads)  
May 28, 2010 Please join us as we honor our teachers

# Extracurricular & Special Programs (cont'd)

## Youth Group

pARTY (people of Arnold Reform Temple Youth) membership is open to all eighth through twelfth grade students. pARTY members participate in social activities, retreats, special creative religious services, and social action projects throughout the year. Under the guidance of the youth advisors, leadership development is a key goal of the pARTY program. Members take an active role in planning and carrying out all activities. pARTY is part of the National Federation of Temple Youth-Mid Atlantic Region. NFTY-MAR sponsors four conclaves (*kallah*) a year.

The religious school helps prepare Temple Beth Shalom's students for their first per-

## Student Life-Cycle Events

sonal Jewish milestones—life-cycle events that represent their transition from one stage of life to another. As a modern reform congregation, Temple Beth Shalom emphasizes that *b'nai mitzvah* is not the final milestone in religious education and insists that all families recognize the obligation to study to confirmation, and hopefully beyond. Judaism is an unending process of life, of study, and of devotion.

### Consecration

All primary grade students new to our religious school participate in a lovely ceremony of consecration, marking their entry into formal Jewish education at Temple Beth Shalom. The ceremony will be held *Erev Shabbat*, October 9, 2009, beginning with a service at 6PM. Each consecrant receives a miniature *Torah* symbolic of beginning *Torah* study, a consecration certificate and “goodies.”

### Fourth Grade Siyyum

Fourth grade students will begin the journey of learning the Hebrew language for *Siddur* and *Torah* reading. They will know how to decode all 32 Hebrew letters as well as the vowels. At the conclusion of this study there will be a ceremony honoring them for their persistent efforts. Parents and siblings are encouraged to attend this program, allowing students to demonstrate their Hebrew prowess.

### Confirmation

Confirmation is a unique life-cycle event involving graduates of the tenth grade. Students study together, become involved in community service, and create their own confirmation service. Our confirmation ceremony will take place on *Erev Shabbat*, May 21 at 7:30PM with a dinner for the students and their families at 6:30PM.

# Student Responsibilities

1. Come to school regularly and on time.
2. Do the required readings and carry out the projects and assignments to the satisfaction of the teachers and school administration.
3. Attend Temple Beth Shalom services in order to be familiar with our liturgy and develop an understanding of prayer in a Jewish setting.
4. Contribute to *tzedakah* on a regular basis.
5. Take part in the special activities organized by the school administration for particular grades.
6. Bring textbooks, paper, pencil/pen, and any other needed supplies with you to each class.

# Ten Commandments for Synagogue/*Tefillah* Behavior

1. Honor the sanctuary—it is a holy place.
2. Honor your parents—they love and care for you.
3. Honor the people around you—every person is important because every person was made in God’s image.
4. Honor yourself—we should be the best that we can be.
5. Be gentle—speak softly and let everyone pray.
6. Be respectful—speak respectfully of others.
7. Be considerate of others—enter the sanctuary quietly, especially if services are already in progress.
8. Be courteous—when invited, participate.
9. Be safe—walk when called upon. Don’t run or climb on the *bimah*.
10. Honor all synagogue leaders—they are here to help and guide you.

# Parent Responsibilities

1. Make sure your child attends regularly and on time.
2. Make sure that your child brings all necessary textbooks and supplies to each class.
3. See that your child does his/her homework assignments regularly. Supervise regular and consistent Hebrew reading practice at home. Become familiar with your child's studies.
4. Notify the school administration prior to the opening of school of any special learning needs or other information about your child that can be of help to your child and his/her teacher.
5. Notify the school and temple office of any changes in your address, e-mail, or other important information that may occur during the course of the year.
6. Come with your child to religious services and to family education programs. Participate in class activities planned for families.
7. Assist students in prayer requirements by reviewing with them at home and at services.
8. Eliminate interferences with school programs, such as football games during school hours, piano lessons during class time, etc. Let the religious school office know (if possible, via email) when your child will be absent.
9. Attend special meetings for parents and teachers.
10. Make sure your child contributes to *tzedakah*.

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**Sisterhood helps support the Religious School. Please support and participate in Temple Sisterhood.**

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**Show your child that Jewish education is meaningful: attend adult education classes.**

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# Religious School Policies

**Attendance-Religious School.** Students at all grade levels are required to attend a minimum of 75% of Sunday and 75% of Wednesday classes. Attendance is taken at all classes, and teachers may require make-up work if a student misses more than 25% of classes.

**Attendance - Services.** Students in grade 4 must attend a minimum of four *shabbat* services a year. Students in grade 5 must attend a minimum of six *shabbat* services, in grade 6 a minimum of 8 *shabbat* services, and in grade 7 a minimum of 10 *shabbat* services a year. Service requirements may include one *shabbat* service at another congregation; all others must be at Temple Beth Shalom.

**Early Pick-up.** Parents must send a note to the office if a child is to be dismissed early.

**Emergencies.** In the event of a medical emergency, the parents or emergency contact will be immediately notified. If they cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the emergency room of Anne Arundel Medical Center.

**Emergency Contacts.** Emergency telephone numbers are vitally important.

Current cell, work, and home telephone numbers for Parents/Guardians, or other adults who are authorized to pick you your child, must be listed with the Religious School office. Changes in cell, work or home telephone numbers are to be sent immediately to the office so that contact information is always current.

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**We must have current emergency phone numbers for each child; please report changes to the Religious School immediately.**

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New students may be admitted to Temple Beth Shalom religious school at any time during the school year. If a new student has insufficient Hebrew and/or Judaica background as determined by the Director of Education, the family will be required to provide for a private tutor approved by the Director of Education until the student has mastered the part of the curriculum in which he/she is deficient.

**Fees.** Fees are determined by the Temple Board of Trustees. The amounts are announced when registration forms are issued each spring.

**Outreach.** Temple Beth Shalom religious school is a primary pathway for outreach to interfaith families. As Reform Jews, we welcome interfaith families and encourage them to affirm the Jewish identification of their children. Experience tells us, however, that when interfaith couples seek to educate their children not exclusively as Jews, it is a path we can not support. It is contrary to our understanding of outreach, because it is theologically inconsistent for a person to identify as both Jewish and Christian (or as an adherent of any other religion). Psychologically placing the burden of such an impossible decision on children may imperil their healthy spiritual development and it is incongruent with the mission of Reform religious schools.

# Religious School Policies (cont'd)

## Homework:

- **Primary Program:** Homework is not given as a rule. Occasionally, children may be asked to reread a story at home or ask a parent a question to be discussed in class.
- **Jewish Studies:** For grades 4 through 10, a maximum of 15 minutes per class period may be given; this may include parent participation.
- **Hebrew:** Regular, consistent reading practice supervised at home is necessary. The ideal is 10 minutes per day, 7 days a week.

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Teachers will notify parent/s of any problem areas as early as possible in the school year.

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**Illness/Communicable Diseases.** Students are expected to be free of fever (temperature less than 100.4o F) and free of communicable diseases in order to attend Religious School. Parents/Guardians are required to pick up their child as soon as possible if he/she develops a fever (temperature greater than 100.4o F) or otherwise become ill at Religious School.

Parents/Guardians should keep their child home for a minimum of 7 days or until the child is fever-free for 24 hours without anti-fever medication, whichever is longer. This helps minimize the spread of potentially contagious illnesses at Religious School and encourages adequate rest and recuperation before the student returns to school.

We ask that you call or email the Religious School office (410-757-0552, [tbsedu@comcast.net](mailto:tbsedu@comcast.net)) when a child is going to be absent, especially if the absence is due to illness, so that we can help monitor the health and safety of our all students and families.

**Report Cards.** The school year is divided into semesters. Progress reports are issued twice a year, with the final report being cumulative. In their evaluations, teachers write specific comments about each student, explaining strengths and noting areas for improvement.

**School Closings.** When Anne Arundel County Schools cancel evening programs due to inclement weather, Temple Beth Shalom's classes may also be cancelled. Emergency closings will be announced on the temple answering machine, when possible, and sent via e-mail. We will also attempt to contact all parents through class-level phone trees.

**Textbooks.** Textbooks and material fees are included in the registration. Books will be distributed on the first day of school. Students must bring their textbooks to class; teachers will notify the Director of Education if a student is without a text for two consecutive class sessions.

**Visitors.** Parents or guests of students who wish to visit classrooms must obtain permission from the Director of Education a minimum of 48 hours prior to the class they wish to visit. Permission will be granted at the discretion of the Director of Education in conjunction with the classroom teacher.

The religious school committee is made up of congregants, teachers, the Director of Education, and the Rabbi. The committee meets every month to discuss issues and establish policies. In addition, the committee helps during the year with various religious school activities. We always welcome suggestions from the congregation and invite you to contact the committee chair to provide your input, ideas, and comments.

## Committee Members

Stacy Shaener—committee chair	(410) 573-9855 sshaener@verizon.net
Lori Brawerman—member	(410) 849-2001 loriswb@yahoo.com
Alexis Evans—member	(410) 349-8747 bulldog2434@msn.com
Cindy Heslin—member	(410) 544-2412 spedcindy@yahoo.com
Laura McDaniel—member	(410) 757-3118 fivemcdaniels@gmail.com
Steffani Mykins	(410) 626-1958 smykins@comcast.net
Susan Noble—member	(410) 757-1156 susanmnoble@verizon.net
Sarah White—member	(410) 349-2783 sarahjohnw@verizon.net
Angie Seligman—member	(410) 544-3378 angiron@earthlink.net
Ari Goldstein—Rabbi	(410) 757-0552 tbsrabbi@comcast.net
Ellyn Kaufman—Director of Education	(410) 757-0552 tbsedu@comcast.net

## School Faculty

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>ROOM (S &amp; W)</u>
K	CHERYL KRUSHAT	3
1	CHRISSY PALKO	2
2	JESSICA HEDGES	4
3	HOWARD MARKS	Library
3	WAYNE FOSSMAN	8
4	TAUBE HEDDINGS (Hebrew)	9
4	LINDSAY LANTON (Jewish Studies)	TRR/8
5	CARMEN PROCIDA	5
5	CHERYL KRUSHAT (Wednesdays)	5
6	NECHAMA WADDELL (S), DAVID HELFMAN (W, Hebrew)	Family Room/3
6	KIM JACOBSON (S), SARAH HEDDINGS (W, J/S)	6/6
7	ROBIN BUCHANAN, ILANIT EVERS	7
8	IRENE REPKA	2
9	KIM JACOBSON	4
10	RABBI ARI GOLDSTEIN, NEIL SCHECHTER	Family Room

# TEMPLE BETH SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR

## 2010–2011 (5770-5771)

<p style="text-align: center; color: #800080; font-weight: bold;">September 2010</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="font-size: small;">Su</th> <th style="font-size: small;">Mo</th> <th style="font-size: small;">Tu</th> <th style="font-size: small;">We</th> <th style="font-size: small;">Th</th> <th style="font-size: small;">Fri</th> <th style="font-size: small;">Sa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	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			<p>August 25..... Religious School Teacher In-Service Meeting</p> <p>September 4..... S'lichot service</p> <p>September 9..... Rosh Hashanah Services and Junior Congregation</p> <p>September 12..... 1st day of Sunday classes, Back-To-School for grades K-7</p> <p>September 15..... First day of mid-week Hebrew School Classes, Back-To-School for grades 8-10</p> <p>September 18..... Yom Kippur Services and Junior Congregation</p> <p><b>September 19..... No Religious School classes</b></p> <p>September 22..... Pizza In the Hut Sukkot Celebration; Erev Sukkot</p> <p>September 26..... Sundaes in the Sukkah; All-Day Hebrew Marathon for Adults</p> <p>September 29..... Consecration/Simchat Torah</p>								
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\* Jewish holidays begin the evening before

Updated June 2010