



Temple Shalom

Religious School Family Handbook

Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12

☆ 5770 ☆ 2009-2010 ☆

The world is based upon three things:

Torah, Avodah (worship) and Gimilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness).

על שלשה דברים העולם עומד. על התורה ועל העבודה ועל גמילות חסדים.

Al shlosa devarim ha'olam omed, al haTorah, v'al haAvodah, v'al Gimilut Chasadim.

Pirke Avot 1:2

Dear Parents:

Bruchim Habaim. Welcome to a new school year and our 50th Jubilee Year! We look forward to providing all of our religious school families and students with cutting edge Jewish educational programs.

We welcome back dedicated faculty members and you will also notice a few new faces this year. We have developed an exciting new learning model for our Chai school students in Grades 8 and 9 (see the last page of the handbook) and have expanded our Beit Din program. We will continue our commitment to providing in-depth Jewish experiences for Temple Shalom families. We hope that you will actively participate in family education programs, Friday Shabbat Family Services and dinners, holiday celebrations, and Jubilee programs throughout the year.

A key mission of the Temple's Religious Education Committee is to ensure that the school operates in accordance with the vision and goals of the Congregation. The Committee welcomes your ideas and participation in fulfilling this mission.

Shana Tova U'metucah, have a sweet New Year,

Jeff

Jeffrey Steger
Chair, Religious Education Committee

Lisa

Lisa Pressman
Director of Education
dired@templeshalom.net

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Shalom's Religious Education program is a diverse, inclusive community of students and families from pre-kindergarten through high school. We are committed to the education of our children in Jewish history, rituals, culture, Hebrew language and values. This education will prepare them to live a Jewish life of their choosing and to become active members of the Jewish community.

JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS!

"And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants of it; it shall be a jubilee to you." Leviticus 25:10

Join us for fabulous 50th anniversary programming throughout the year in our Religious School and our Temple Shalom community. Happy Jubilee Year! Temple Shalom.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR * 5770 * 2009-2010

September 2009							October 2009							November 2009							December 2009							January 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																												31						

February 2010							March 2010							April 2010							May 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3						1		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	1	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	1	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28							28	29	30	31				2	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
																					30	31					

○ First Day of Classes
 Denotes no school
 ◇ Last Day of Classes

Date	Day	Event	Date	Day	Event
September			February		
9	W	Confirmation Opening class	5-6	F-Sat.	Grades 4 & 5 Shabbaton
13	S	Opening Sunday Grades PK-7	5	F	Grade 2 leads Shabbat Family Service
		Opening Sunday Evening for Chai School 15	7	S	Chai School Mitzvah Day
	T	First Day Tuesday Hebrew classes			<i>Nothing But Nets</i> program
16	W	First Day Wednesday Hebrew classes			NO EVENING CLASSES
20	S	NO SCHOOL - Rosh Hashanah	12-14	F-S	Confirmation NY Trip
27	S	Sukkah Building, Erev Yom Kippur	14	S	NO SCHOOL – President’s Day
			21	S	Grade 7 Family Education Program
			27	Sat.	Purim Crafts & Services
			28	S	Purim Carnival
October			March		
4	S	Grade K Family Education Program	5-7	F-S	Grade 8 & 9 Retreat
		B’nai Mitzvah family meeting	5	F	Grades 1 lead Shabbat Family Service
		Confirmation Opening Sunday	7	S	Grade 7 Trip to Holocaust Museum
9	F	Consecration/Naming - Erev Simhat Torah			NO School Grade 8 & 9 ONLY
11	S	Back-to-School	14	S	Grade 2 Hebrew Home trip
13	T	Back-to-School	21	S	Grade 4 Family Education Program
14	W	Back-to-School	28 - 31		NO SCHOOL - Springbreak
18	S	Grade 1 Family Education Program			
25	S	Grade 6 Family Education Program			
November			April		
1	S	Mitzvah Day, NO Evening Classes	1-4		NO SCHOOL - Springbreak
6	F	Grade 7 leads Shabbat Family Service	6-7	T,W	NO SCHOOL - Passover
8	S	Grade 3 Ratner museum trip	9-11	F-S	10th grade retreat
15	S	Grade K Family Education Program	11	S	Grade 5 Family Education Program
20-22	F-S	Grade 7 Retreat			Yom HaShoah Service grs. 7 & 10 participate
22	S	Grade 2 Family Education Program	18	S	Grade 9 Pre-Confirmation meeting
24-29		NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break	23	F	Post-Confirmation Graduation
			25	S	Grade 4 Family Education Program- Cemetery Trip
			30	F	Grade 4 Matan Sidur Celebration
December			May		
4	F	Grade 5 leads Shabbat Family Service	2	S	Grade 3 Family Education Program
5	Sat.	Grade 2 Havdalah	7	F	Grade 3 leads Shabbat Family Service
6	F	Grade 7 Family Education Program	9	S	Tzedakah Fair
11-13	F-S	Grade 10 Retreat	11	T	Last Day of Tuesday Hebrew classes & Teacher Appreciation Dinner
11-18		Chanukah	12	W	Last Day of Wednesday Hebrew classes
20	S	Grade 1 Family Education Program	16	S	Last Day of Religious School: Uni-session and Picnic
22-31		NO SCHOOL - Winter Break			Last Chai School
			21	F	10th grade Graduation
			23	S	Confirmation
January					
1-3		NO SCHOOL - Winter Break			
8-9	F-S	Grade 6 Shabbaton			
8	F	Grade 6 leads Shabbat Family Service			
10	S	Grade 5 Family Education Program			
		NO School Grade 6 ONLY			
17	S	NO SCHOOL			
31	S	Grade 6 Family Education Program			

SCHOOL CLASSES AND HOURS

Grade Pre-K, ages 3 & 4	1 session per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45
Grades K, 1, 2 and 3	choose 1 session per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45 OR 11:15-1:15
Grades 4-7	choose 2 sessions per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45 OR 11:15-1:15 AND Tues. 4:30-6:00 OR Wed. 4:30-6:00 OR Wed. 6:30-8:00
Chai School - Grades 8-9	1 session per week	Sunday 6:00-8:00
Confirmation - Grade 10	2 sessions per week	Sunday 6:00-8:00 AND Wed. 6:30-8:00
Post-Confirmation Grades 11-12		Bi-weekly, generally on Sunday evening

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE PROCEDURES

Progress in Jewish education is best achieved through regular classroom participation. Students can find themselves frustrated and unable to keep up with their classroom activities, especially with Hebrew language study, if they are not in class consistently. Please make sure to call the Religious School office at 301.587.2273x111 if your child must be absent.

- ✧ A student in grades 4-9 with six or more absences in Sunday Judaic studies classes is required to meet in a parent-student conference with the Director of Education to arrange for completion of an independent study project.
- ✧ A student with six or more absences in mid-week Hebrew classes is required to meet with the Director of Education.
- ✧ A 10th Grade-Confirmation student may have a maximum of three unexcused absences in order to fulfill Graduation-Confirmation requirements.
- ✧ Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Shalom is contingent upon the *commitment to continue in the religious school through 10th Grade graduation*. Jewish learning is life-long and students must reach a higher level of understanding to take full advantage of the philosophical underpinnings of Judaism and Jewish life. It is our expectation that parents and students will make every effort to fully participate in our school through 10th grade and we encourage students to continue to study with the Rabbi through 12th Grade creating a dynamic learning community with in-depth Jewish study.

ATTENDING A DIFFERENT SESSION

*It is very important to us that we meet the needs of our families as much as possible. To ensure an orderly classroom environment, **if you need to attend a different session, please notify the Religious School office at 301-587-2273 or email school@templeshalom.net in advance.***

LATE ARRIVAL

Children should enter the school a few minutes before the start of class to be ready to begin work at the scheduled time. If a child will regularly arrive late to class, please notify the school office. Classes begin promptly: Sunday, 8:45, 11:15 or 6:00; Tuesday and Wednesday 4:30 or 6:30. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES: Sunday 6:00-8:00, Wednesday 6:30-8:00.**

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Our school is dedicated to creating a warm and safe learning environment for all our students. For us to meet the needs of our students, it is important for parents to share with us their child's special needs. The more we know about our students, the better we can create a secure and caring environment in which to share our Jewish heritage. Helping our students remain focused on the learning helps to minimize any disruptive classroom behavior which impairs learning for all.

Teachers handle many minor issues that arise in the classroom on a day-to-day basis. If necessary, a teacher will request help from the Director of Education with disruptive behavior. The teacher and the Director will create a plan to help the child be successful. Should this plan not result in changing the child's behavior, the following steps will be taken:

1. The child will be removed from the class and the Director of Education will meet with the child to ascertain the nature of the problem. The teacher and the Director of Education will plan strategies with the child to change the behavior.
2. Should the disruptive behavior continue, the Director of Education will notify the child's parents. Parents will be asked to assist in helping the child adjust to the requirements of the classroom.
3. At the discretion of the Director of Education, a meeting with the child, the parents and the teacher will be necessary to develop strategies to help the child achieve appropriate behavior in the classroom.
4. Should the disruptive behavior continue, the Director of Education, parents, teacher and Rabbi will meet to determine an appropriate plan of action to ensure the educational success of the child in the classroom.

☆ TORAH ☆ JUDAIC STUDIES AND HEBREW CURRICULUM

- Pre-K** A warm, caring environment of fun Jewish activities for 3 and 4 year olds. Parent volunteers help in the class each week.
- Kindergarten** My Place in a Jewish World: Holidays, Shabbat and Bible Stories and blessings over food.
- Grade 1** The Stories of My People: Bible stories continued and the holidays. Introductory Hebrew: classroom words, blessings over food.
- Grade 2** Living in a Jewish World: God, Mitzvot, Bible: Genesis, the story of Joseph and Havdallah. Hebrew: Right to left orientation and introduction to the alef-bet.
- Grade 3** Ethical Judaism in Jewish Life: Ethics, 10 Commandments, Bible: Exodus, the story of Moses. Hebrew: Continuing studies of the alef-bet, classroom vocabulary and various blessings.
- Grade 4** Living a Jewish Life: The Jewish life cycle and Living as partners with God. Hebrew: Foundational year of learning Hebrew consonants and vowels and basic prayer vocabulary and prayer study.
- Grade 5** Torah is the Foundation of Jewish Learning: Ancient Israel, Bible, modern Israel. Hebrew: Basic prayers and the meanings of the prayers.
- Grade 6** Our Past Informs Our Future: The wisdom of the Prophets, American Jewish History and our personal Jewish histories. Hebrew: The Shabbat service prayers, prayer meanings, introduction to modern Hebrew.
- Grade 7** One People, Many Journeys: Jewish history around the globe, the rise of Anti-Semitism and the roots of the Holocaust. Hebrew: The Shabbat service, a personal connection with prayer and God concepts.
- Chai School** Students in grades 8 & 9 choose from a series of electives from Jewish philosophy to Jewish music and the arts.
- Confirmation** Rabbi Feshbach and our staff provide our 10th graders with a deep connection to Jewish ideas through class work, retreats and a Jewish New York City weekend.
- Post-Confirmation** Rabbi Feshbach meets with students twice per month exploring Jewish life and learning.

Avodah ☆ Work of the Heart

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

An important part of your child's experience in our religious school begins with you. While we are partners in your child's Jewish education, we can't do it alone. Our school offers both you and your children rich Jewish experiences that we hope will become a part of your family's traditions. Our goal is life-long Jewish learning that informs our lives in America today.

- ☆ **Participate in all grade level family education programs** for you and your child; learn and share together a theme from the curriculum. Parents will also have time for some adult level learning during each family education morning.
- ☆ **Attend Shabbat evening services;** a wonderful way to be a part of our Temple Shalom community. Your children will be better prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah by reading Hebrew and learning the prayer melodies during services.
- ☆ **Watch for homework sheets and emails from your child's teacher and check the Religious School Homework page at www.Templeshalom.net each week.** Monitor your child's studies and take an active part in your child's education. Contact the teacher or the Religious School office with any questions or concerns.
- ☆ **Celebrate the holidays in your home and at Temple Shalom.** Join us for holiday celebrations throughout the year. Need some help? We are always available, call the clergy or Lisa Pressman, Director of Education at 301.587.2273 or email lpresman@templeshalom.net.

Hebrew language acquisition is exceedingly difficult to accomplish in 1-1/2 hours per week. If students are to feel comfortable in worship services and to maximize their Hebrew acquisition, we feel it vitally important that they do at least **5-10 minutes of Hebrew reading each evening in grades 4 and up.** Practicing the letters with your children is a wonderful way to help language acquisition. Even if you have no Hebrew knowledge we can help with materials for your home.

Gimilut Chasadim ☆ Kindness to Others

Judaism is dedicated to Tikkun Olam, repair of the world, and Gimilut Chasadim, kindness to others. Throughout their years in our school, students learn about helping others in the world. Join us by actively supporting our Tzedakah fund each week. Ask your children to donate 25 cents from their allowance, which you will match, to give to our Tzedakah fund. Children decide at the end of the year where their funds will go.

Our **Beit Din**, Jewish Court, is comprised of student volunteers who want to make a difference in our school. Students meet each week from 10:45-11:15 to plan and coordinate our school Tzedakah programs throughout the year. Please encourage your child to join our Beit Din Tzedakah program. It is a wonderful way to take a leadership role in our school.

New Program

CHAI SCHOOL ☆ GRADES 8-9

The New Chai School program will allow 8th and 9th grade students to choose their own Jewish journeys to pursue. Select one of the options below, register for Chai school, and Lisa Pressman, Director of Education, will make sure that each student has the information that they need to be successful. This is an exciting new adventure into informal Jewish education that connects to each 8th and 9th graders.

Students Will Select One of the Following Programs of Study

- ☆ As every year, spend Sunday evenings at Temple Shalom from 6:00-8:00 pm socializing with friends and learning Jewish philosophy, spirituality, history, Israel and other Jewish topics.
- ☆ Work in our religious school every Sunday morning with students in grades Pre-K to 2 and attend an Ozrim (aide) class three times a year. The goal: Learn about being a Religious School teacher and write and teach classroom lessons.
- ☆ Join JYPI (Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute) and work with teens from our area to learn about youth philanthropy and civic engagement in the Jewish community. Meets one Sunday per month with additional projects during the year.
- ☆ Create a Tikkun Olam program for yourself and cook for SOME once a month at Temple Shalom, participate in J-Serve on April 25, 2010, participate and help plan Chai School Mitzvah Day, Mitzvah Day and the Tzedakah Fair.
- ☆ Learn to be a Torah Reader with Cantor Levine (3 sessions) and volunteer to read Torah once a month on Shabbat morning.
- ☆ Join the Teen Choir and work with Cantor Levine on Sundays from 12:30-1:15 or the Temple Shalom Band and meet with the Cantor on Sundays from 1:30-2:30.

☆ YOUTH GROUPS ☆

At Temple Shalom, we view every student in our community as a member of our various youth groups. This year we are re-imagining our Youth Program, turning towards parents and volunteers as youth leaders, while engaging our young people in this important arena of social connection and informal Jewish education. We are also re-"grading" the youth groups this year: 9th-12th grades as our TaSTY Senior Youth Group (in keeping with the Reform movement), 6th-8th grades as TaSTY Junior, 3rd-5th grades as TaSTY Kids, and Kindergarten-2nd grades as TaSTY Tots. Significantly, dues will remain at the same level as last year: Tots and Kids, \$9; TaSTY Junior, \$15; and TaSTY Senior, \$32. These dues go to support and energize our programs; of critical importance are the dues for the Senior Youth Group, which reflect membership in NFTY, the (national) North American Federation of Temple Youth, and allow our students' participation in regional and national youth movement events. Your support and involvement are critical as we build our Youth Program.

☆ SNOW AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS ☆

During inclement weather announcements of school closing are broadcast on radio stations at regular intervals. Listen to the following radio stations for notice of school closing or check the WTOP web page - <http://www.wtop.com>:

WMAL – 630 AM or WTOP – 103.5 FM/820 AM

On Tuesday and Wednesday: If Montgomery County Schools are closed for inclement weather, there are no Religious School classes. If Montgomery County Schools close early, **we do not hold** afternoon and evening classes.

On Sunday: The radio stations will only announce closings. If you do not hear Temple Shalom mentioned please check the WTOP website (<http://www.wtop.com>). There will be an announcement on our Temple voicemail by 7:30 am at 301-587-2273.

☆ DROP OFF AND PICK-UP ☆

Religious School dismissal procedures are designed for students to be safe and secure as they enter and leave our building. Please help us keep our children safe while they are negotiating arriving and leaving our building by following these procedures.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES CAREFULLY

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR CHILDREN.

PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE PARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WING.

It is dangerous for the cars that overflow onto Grubb Road and for others trying to negotiate the parking lot.

Sundays: Grades Pre-K through Grade 2: Children **MUST** be picked-up in the classroom.

Grades 3-7: Please park and come inside to meet your children.

Midweek: You will have two options for dismissal.

Option 1. Come in and pick-up your children

Please enter from Grubb Road and park in the **FRONT PARKING LOT** and come down the stairs to meet your children.

Option 2. You may wait for children in a carpool line outside the SANCTUARY DOORS

PLEASE ENTER FROM KEITH COURT - the street off Spencer Rd.– turn left in the parking lot and circle around to form a line past the Sukkah that stretches to the Sanctuary doors.

MAKE SURE TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN TO EXIT THROUGH THE UPSTAIRS SANCTUARY DOORS.

We appreciate your compliance with these procedures which will enable all children to safely negotiate our parking lot.