

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Shalom's Religious School 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.

We are pleased that you will be joining our Temple Shalom community. Please call or email us at any time with questions, concerns, or ideas for the future of our vibrant community.

*Rabbi Rachel Ackerman, Director of Education
rabbiackerman@templeshalom.net
301.587.2273 x 104*



Temple Shalom

*Religious School Family Handbook
Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12
☆ 5772 ☆ 2011-2012☆*

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 shlosha 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! We look forward to providing all of our religious school families and students with rich, in-depth, Jewish educational programs this year.

We are pleased to welcome back our dedicated teaching staff. You will notice several new faces. We are eager to create meaningful and engaging Jewish activities for all of our students. We will be piloting the URJ's Mitkadem Hebrew curriculum in some of our Tuesday classrooms. Our CHAI School will be continuing with another year of cutting-edge programming. We will also be implementing Shabbat La Nefesh, thanks to the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning's I.C.E. Grant, which will enable us to offer Shabbat dinner experiences for parents! We 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, and Holiday Celebrations 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 Religious Education Committee welcomes your ideas and participation in fulfilling this mission.

Shana Tova U'metukah. Wishing You a Sweet New Year,

Jeff
Jeffrey Steger
Chair, Religious Education Committee

Rabbi Rachel Ackerman
Rabbi Rachel Ackerman
Director of Education

☆ **SNOW AND INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS** ☆

Sunday Religious School Information during inclement weather:

- ☆ Go to home page at templeshalom.net or wtop.com for school closing information.
- ☆ Closings will be announced on the following radio stations: WMAL – 630 AM or WTOP – 103.5 FM and 820 AM
- ☆ You can also check our Temple voicemail after 8:00 AM on Sunday morning at 301-587-2273.

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 or cancel afternoon activities, **there will not be Religious School classes in the afternoon or evening.** For Sunday Religious School information see above.

☆ **DROP OFF AND PICK-UP** ☆

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR CHILDREN

Religious School dismissal procedures are designed for students to be safe and secure as they enter and leave our building. Please follow these procedures.

DO NOT DOUBLE PARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS TO THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WING AT ANY TIME

This creates a dangerous situation for our children and causes an illegal back-up onto Grubb Road. Consider entering the parking lot from Spencer Road, which is around the corner from the Grubb Road entrance.

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

Grades 3-7: Park and come inside to meet your children or designate a safe meeting spot.

Midweek: To make sure our children are safe, please park your car and come inside to pick-up your children. If children are to meet you in the parking lot, park and watch for your child. With lots of cars and children, the parking lot may be dangerous in the dark at evening time.

Please take the upmost care in negotiating the parking lot at these times.

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

CHAI SCHOOL ✦ GRADES 8-9

The CHAI School program encourages 8th and 9th grade students to choose their own Jewish journeys. When registering for CHAI School select one of the options below. You are on your way to a fabulous Jewish experience.

Students Will Select One of the Following Programs of Study

- ✦ Spend Sunday evenings at Temple Shalom from 6:00-8:00PM socializing with friends and learning Jewish cooking, spirituality, history, Israel, and other Jewish topics.
- ✦ Work in our Religious School every Sunday morning with students in grades Pre-K to 4th, 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. JYPI 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 in the Spring. Participate and help plan CHAI School Mitzvah Day, Mitzvah Day, and the Tzedakah Fair.
- ✦ Join the Ruach Teen Choir and work with Cantor Levine on Sundays, or the Ruach Teen Band, and meet with conductor Amy Fried on Sunday afternoons for 2 hours.

TaSTY

✦ YOUTH GROUPS ✦

Temple Shalom Temple Youth

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. The grades for our youth groups for this year are: 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 Tweens, and Kindergarten-2nd grades as TaSTY Kids. Dues this year will be: Tots and Kids \$0.00 (no dues required for Tots and Kids), TaSTY Junior, \$18; 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. This allows our students' participation in Regional and National Youth Movement events. Your support and involvement are critical as we continue to build our Youth Program.

✦ RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STAFF ✦

Rabbi Rachel Ackerman	Director of Education	rabbiackerman@templeshalom.net	301-587-2273 x104
Pattie Gordon	Office Manager	school@templeshalom.net	301-587-2273 x111
Lisa Rozman	Pre-Kindergarten	lisa@rozone.net	301-610-5678
Hillary Frizner	Kindergarten, Gimel Tuesday	hillary.frizner@gmail.com	301-318-2664
Lois Kimmel	Grade 1	kimmellois@yahoo.com	404-345-7084
Jeannette Gordon	Grade 2	jg82s@nih.gov	301-496-3813
Rachel Robinson	Grade 3, Gimel Wed.	none	301-649-1359
Robin Kragen	Alef Tues., Alef Wed.	robin.kragen@gmail.com	301-404-8446
Barbara Miller	Grade 4	bdss@verison.net	301-933-6354
Catherine Heffernan	Grade 5	catherine.heffernan@gmail.com	847-902-1228
Rebekah Levy	Bet 5 Tues., Bet 4-5 Wed.	RebekahMLevy@comcast.net	301-741-6390
Jennifer Caine	Bet 4-5 Wed.	jacaine@gmail.com	610-212-8533
Scott Kravetz	Grade 7, Confirmation, Beit Din	gausxk@verizon.net	301-592-0445
Roberta Hockstein	CHAI School, Bet 4-5 Wed.	bobbijax@gmail.com	301-548-1847
Michael Twitty	CHAI School	koshersoul@gmail.com	301-442-5021
Xani Pollakoff	CHAI School	xanipollakoff@gmail.com	847-814-2779
Andrea Mark	Confirmation	andreamark@gmail.com	301-493-5833
Rabbi Michael Feshbach	Confirmation, Post-Confirmation	rabbifeshbach@templeshalom.net	301-587-2273
Cantor Lisa Levine	Choirs, T'filah, 6th & 7th Grade Trope	cantorlisa@templeshalom.net	301-587-2273
Paula Oliver	Hebrew Resource	none	301-587-6399
Carri Wasserberg	Family Education	carr0102@gmail.com	414-559-3133
Olga Shpitalna	Art	olga_shpit@yahoo.com	301-461-5882
Lisa Baydush	Music	sunshinegirlsings@gmail.com	301-424-2051
Amy Fried	Teen Band	amyfried@comcast.net	301-881-5187
Valeriya Koldayeva	School Resource & Support	val@templeshalom.net	301-587-2273

✦ WELCOME ✦

SCHOOL CLASSES AND HOURS

Grade Pre-K, ages 3 & 4	1 session per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45AM
Grades K, 1 & 2	choose 1 session per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45AM OR 11:15AM-1:15PM
Grades 3-6	choose 2 sessions per week	Sunday 8:45-10:45AM OR 11:15AM-1:15PM AND Tues. 4:30-6:00PM OR Wed. 4:30-6:00PM
Grade 7	choose 2 sessions per week for Fall semester ONLY	Sunday 11:15AM-1:15 PM OR 6:00-8:00PM AND Tues. 4:30-6:00PM OR Wed. 4:30-6:00PM
CHAI School - Grades 8-9	1 session per week	Choose from 6 options (see CHAI SCHOOL page)
Confirmation - Grade 10	1 session per week	Sunday 6:00-8:00PM with additional sessions TBA
Post-Confirmation Grades 11-12		Bi-weekly, generally on Sunday evenings 6:00-7:30PM

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 301.587.2273 x 111 if your child must be absent.

- ✧ A student in grades 4-9 with six (6) or more absences in Sunday Judaic studies classes is required to meet in a parent-student conference with Rabbi Ackerman, Director of Education, to arrange for completion of an independent study project.
- ✧ A student with six (6) or more absences in mid-week Hebrew classes is required to meet with the Director of Education.
- ✧ 10th Grade students may only have three unexcused absences to fulfill Confirmation-Graduation 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. This creates a dynamic learning community with in-depth Jewish study.

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 your family rich Jewish experiences that we hope will become a part of your family's rituals and traditions. Our goal is life-long Jewish learning that informs our daily lives.

- ✧ **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 Erev Shabbat 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 Classroom Connections webpage at http://www.templeshalom.net/index.php/home/classroom_connections.** Monitor your child's studies and take an active part in your child's education. Watch for our Thursday Religious School Update Email for up-to-the-minute information. 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. Contact any of our Rabbis or Cantor at, 301.587.2273, or email: rabbiackerman@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 for Grades 3 and up**. Practicing Hebrew 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 on specifically scheduled Sundays from 10:45-11:15AM to plan and coordinate our school Tzedakah Programs. Please encourage your child to join our Beit Din Tzedakah Program. It is a wonderful way to take a leadership role in our school.

☆ 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 Simple Bible Stories. Introductory Hebrew: songs, classroom words and Shabbat blessings.
Grade 1	The Stories of My People: Genesis Bible stories and the holidays. Introductory Hebrew: songs, classroom words, blessings over food.
Grade 2	Living in a Jewish World: God; Mitzvot; Bible: Exodus and Prophets; and Havdallah. Hebrew: Classroom words, right to left orientation, songs and introduction to the Alef-Bet.
Grade 3	Ethical Judaism in Jewish Life: Ethics, Mitzvot, Ten Commandments and holidays. Hebrew: Begin mid-week Hebrew studies. The Alef-Bet vocabulary, beginning prayers, and prayer study.
Grade 4	Living a Jewish Life: The Jewish life cycle and exploring questions about God. Hebrew: Mid-week Hebrew studies. The Alef-Bet vocabulary, beginning prayers, and prayer study.
Grade 5	Torah is the Foundation of Jewish Learning: Ancient Israel, Bible, Modern Israel. Hebrew: The Shabbat Morning Service 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 Amidah Service prayers and prayer meanings.
Grade 7	One People, Many Journeys: Jewish history around the globe, the rise of Anti-Semitism and the roots of the Holocaust. Hebrew: The Torah service, a personal connection with prayer and God concepts.
CHAI School	Students in Grades 8 & 9 choose from our options (see CHAI page) to create their own Jewish journey.
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.

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 your child needs to make a classroom change or adjustment, or you require a different session, please notify the Religious School Office at 301-587-2273, or email: school@templeshalom.net, as soon as possible to ensure proper communication and placement.**

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, 8:45AM, 11:15AM and 6:00PM; Tuesday and Wednesday 4:30PM.

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 their 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.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR ☆ 5772 ☆

September 2011

5 Mon B'nai Mitzvah Family Program
 11 Sun Opening Sunday Grades PK-9, CHAI School
 13 Tues First Day of Tuesday Hebrew Classes
 14 Wed First Day Wednesday Hebrew Classes
 18 Sun First Day of Confirmation Class
 25 Sun Kindergarten JFE-Consecration
 First Day of Post-Confirmation
 28 Wed **NO SCHOOL- Erev Rosh Hashanah**
 29 Thurs **NO SCHOOL- Rosh Hashanah**

October 2011

2 Sun Back-To-School, All Sunday Sessions
 4 Tues Back-To-School, Tuesday Hebrew Classes
 5 Wed Back-To-School, Wednesday Hebrew Classes
 7 Fri Kol Nidrei
 8 Sat Yom Kippur
 9 Sun Sukkah Building all classes arrive for early session:
 Early,late & evening together from 8:45AM-10:45AM
 Confirmation Class Sukkah Building
 at Rabbi Feshbach's Home
 9 Sun **NO SCHOOL FOR EVENING CLASSES**
 10 Mon **Temple Offices Closed, Columbus Day**
 12 Wed **NO SCHOOL- Erev Sukkot**
 13 Thurs **Temple Offices Closed-Sukkot**
 14-16 Fri-Sun Confirmation NY Class Trip
 19 Wed **NO SCHOOL-EREV SIMCHAT TORAH**
 19 Wed Consecration Photo Session
 Consecration/Erev Simchat Torah Family Service
 23 Sun Grade 1 JFE-Torah

November 2011

4 Fri Grade 5 Leads Shabbat Family Service
 6 Sun Mitzvah Day
 11-13 Fri-Sun Grade 7 Retreat
 19 Fri Grade 2 Havdallah 5-7pm, JFE
 20 Sun Grade 3 Ratner Museum Trip
 22-27 **NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving Break**

December 2011

2 Fri Grade 7 leads Shabbat Family Service
 7 Wed Confirmation Parents Dinner
 9-11 Fri-Sun Grade 10 Retreat
 23 Fri Night of 1000 Menorahs
 20-31 **NO SCHOOL- Winter Break**

January 2012

1-2 **NO SCHOOL- Winter Break**
 6 Fri Grade 6 leads Shabbat Family Service
 15 Sun **NO SCHOOL- MLK Holiday Observed**
 20-21 Fri-Sat Grades 4 & 5 Shabbaton
 22 Sun Grade 7 Late & Evening JFE-Tefillah
 29 Sun Grade 5 JFE-Torah

February 2012

3 Fri Grades K & 1 leads Shabbat Family Service
 5 Sun Chai School Mitzvah Day
 10-11 Fri-Sat Grade 6 Shabbaton
 12 Sun Grade 2 Late - Hebrew Home Trip, JFE
 14 Tues **NO SCHOOL**
 19 Sun **NO SCHOOL-President's Day Weekend**
 20 Mon **Temple Offices Closed**
 26 Sun Grade 1 JFE-Synagogue

March 2012

2 Fri Grades 2 & 3 lead Shabbat Family Service
 4 Sun Purim Carnival - 9:30AM-12:30PM
NO CHAI SCHOOL
 9-11 Fri-Sun Grades 8 & 9 Retreat
 11 Sun Grade 7 JFE-Holocaust Museum Trip
NO CHAI SCHOOL
 23 Fri Grade 10 leads Shabbat Family Service
 25 Sun Grade 4 JFE-Weddings

April 2012

1-9 **NO SCHOOL- Spring Break**
 13-15 Fri-Sun Grade 10 Retreat

May 2012

4 Fri Grade 4 leads Shabbat Family Service
 6 Sun Confirmation and Graduation Rehearsal
 11 Fri Post-Confirmation Graduation
 13 Sun Confirmation Graduation Rehearsal
 16 Wed Teacher Appreciation Dinner
 Confirmation Graduation Rehearsal
 20 Sun **LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**
 Confirmation Graduation Rehearsal
 23 Wed Final Confirmation Graduation Rehearsal
 25 Fri Graduation Vows
 27 Sun Confirmation Class Photos
 28 Mon **Temple Offices Closed**