

PARENT HANDBOOK

Mark L. Haberkorn
Religious School

Grades Pre-K ~ 8th

5776/5777 ~ 2016/2017

Updated – August 2016



Congregation Beth Israel
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Shalom!

At the Congregation Beth Israel Haberkorn Religious School we are committed to teaching and providing our students the necessary Jewish core values empowering them with the knowledge and tools to continue a path of life-long Jewish learning.

**CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL**

Mark L. Haberkorn
Religious School

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Program Administrator

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Education Assistant



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the new school year at Congregation Beth Israel. We are ready to start the year with renewed enthusiasm and a commitment to Jewish education.

As the Religious School Director, it is my privilege to oversee the operation of the religious school, and to ensure that our curriculum is both challenging and engaging. I am passionate about Jewish education and am committed to making our Hebrew/Religious School one that honors the unique gifts and learning styles of each child. It is my hope that you will join me in creating a true community of learners.

I look forward to working with you as partners in your child's Jewish education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

L'Shalom,

Stacy Rosenthal
Religious School Director

Religious & Hebrew School Guidelines

SCHEDULE

Hebrew School: Sundays, 8:30-10am
 Grades 4-6th

Judaics/Sunday: Sundays 10am–12:30pm
 Grades Pre-K–6th & 7th Grade Hineini Class (see Calendar)

ATTENDANCE

Students should plan to arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the start of class to ensure that they are in their seats and ready to learn as soon as class begins. Students arriving 10 minutes late will be marked as tardy. Please note that three tardy arrivals or early sign-outs will be equivalent to one absence.

If a student must be absent, they are responsible for making arrangements with their teacher(s) regarding any make-up work. **Students MUST attend at least 70%** of their classes to matriculate to the next grade level.

If a student does not meet the minimum attendance requirements, they are required to attend summer school in August of 2016 before they can begin their new Religious School year. Please note, students with excessive absences may not be eligible for summer school and therefore may not be able to matriculate to the next grade level.

CLASSROOM PREFERENCES

Religious School is an opportunity to learn, have fun, and build community. Students may request to be paired with one friend in Judaics on Sundays. If you wish to submit a request for a Religious School pairing, please indicate your preference on your registration form. We will do our best to honor your request, but cannot guarantee placement. Requests may be made until July 15th.

DRESS CODE

We teach our students that CBI is a holy place and that their choice of clothing should reflect this value. Students are not permitted to wear: spaghetti strap camisoles, shirts which expose midriffs, cleavage or undergarments, mini-skirts, pants that are falling down, or clothing with holes and/or inappropriate language or symbols. A good rule of thumb is that if clothing is inappropriate for their secular school it is inappropriate for Religious School.

DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Our Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade classes all meet in the single story preschool building on the east end of our campus. Students in these grades **must be walked to and picked up from their classrooms**. For security reasons, all visitors must enter the school through the two story religious school building. All other exterior doors remain locked. Please help us to keep our students safe.

Drop-off and pick-up of our older students should occur on the east side of the building. Drive all the way up to the circle before stopping; Students should be dropped off within the traffic circle only. Additional parking is available in the south parking lot.

Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the traffic circle for any reason during drop off or pick up. The drop off/pick up lane is a fire lane and unattended vehicles pose a hazard in case of an emergency.

ELECTRONICS

Students may not use any electronic devices at Hebrew/Religious School during school hours, unless they are in the 6th grade Holocaust class, B'nei Mitzvah Prep class, or the teacher has programming utilizing technology. Parents will be informed by the teacher if a tablet/phone may be part of the curriculum. Any electronic items used during school hours without prior permission will immediately be confiscated and returned to the parents at the end of Religious/Hebrew school.

GUEST POLICY

Students are discouraged from bringing any guests with them to Hebrew/Religious school. Guests may only attend if prior arrangements have been made with Stacy Rosenthal.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

In alignment with our Jewish Preschool (Chanen) and other schools in our community, Congregation Beth Israel's Board of Directors has approved the following policy for the Haberkorn Religious School:

All Religious School students are required to have age-appropriate vaccines recommended by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health or a Medical Exemption signed by your child's pediatrician. Immunization Records are not required to be on file in the Religious School. Your compliance will be indicated on the registration form. The policy will not permit Religious Exemptions. If you have previously chosen this option, you will have until August 23rd, 2015 to become compliant with the new policy. This means that you have the following options if your child is partially immunized or not immunized at all:

1. Obtain all necessary vaccines and notify the Religious School by August 23rd, 2016.
2. Provide a "catch up" plan signed by your pediatrician to the Religious School.
3. Submit an Arizona Department of Health Services Medical Exemption Form signed by your child's pediatrician to the Religious School by August 28th, 2016, if necessary.

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY DEPARTURES

Classes begin on time and parents should plan to have their children in their classrooms at the scheduled start times. Attendance is taken 10 minutes after the start time. **Three tardies are equivalent to one absence.**

If a child needs to be picked up early from a Thursday or Sunday session, we request that the parents or authorized person(s) sign the student out in the Religious School office. You will then receive an early dismissal slip that has to be signed by the assigned desk attendant. The slip is then given to the student's teacher before the child may be excused from class or services. **Three early sign-outs will be equivalent to one absence.**

The safety of your child is paramount! Thank you for working with us to ensure a safe and secure Religious School environment.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found is located in the Religious School Office. At the end of the fall and spring semesters, any unclaimed items will be donated.

MADRICHIM

This program is designed for our 8th-12th grade students who wish to become future Madrichim in the Religious School. Students will have an opportunity to learn first-hand about the program, assisting in the classrooms and learning how to become Jewish role models.

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter, Haberkorn Happenings, is sent electronically every month. Pertinent class activities are highlighted in addition to dates and times of current and future activities of special importance to parents. Please advise us if your email address changes.

SNACK

The Religious School Committee has approved a snack policy that eliminates outside snacks and offers a school provided snack for every student on Sundays. Each Sunday class will receive challah and grape juice. We ask that no additional snacks or drinks be sent with our students.

T'FILLAH (Services)

During Religious School, students, faculty, staff, and families have the opportunity to pray. Services occur on Thursdays for grades 4-6, and on Sundays for grades Pre-K-6. **Students are required to attend services** because it provides them with the opportunity to learn about the service, to practice what they have learned during their classes, and to continually build and strengthen our kehillah kedosha (holy community). Please see the attached Service Attendance Requirements for each grade level.

T'fillah times: Thursday (7th) 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. / Sunday (Pre-K-6th) 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

VANDALISM

Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the property of Congregation Beth Israel. Students and their families are responsible for repair or replacement of school property that is intentionally damaged or destroyed.

Commitment to Attend Shabbat Services and Torah Study

Beginning in the fourth grade, each student will receive “credit” for Shabbat service attendance. We keep a binder with stickers and the names of each student listed. At the end of each Friday evening and Saturday morning Service the child will ask the presiding clergy (or Religious School Director) to place a sticker next to their name to show that they attended. If our records show that a student is not keeping current during the year with the service requirement we will notify you. Furthermore, service attendance outside of Congregation Beth Israel will not count toward fulfillment of this service requirement. However, attendance at a residential Jewish summer camp such as Camp Daisy and Harry Stein will fulfill part of this requirement.

Please note that the period for fulfilling requirements for grades 4-7 runs concurrent with each year’s Religious School calendar (September through May). Stickers received in the summer months may be applied to either the past year’s deficit or as “credit” toward the next year.

REQUIREMENTS | by Grade Year

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| 4 | Fourth Grade | | 4 th Grade students and at least one parent must attend a minimum of SIX Shabbat evening and/or morning services during the year. |
| 5 | Fifth Grade | | 5 th Grade students and at least one parent must attend a minimum of SEVEN Shabbat evening and/or morning services during the year. |
| 6 | Sixth Grade | | 6 th Grade students and at least one parent must attend a minimum of EIGHT Shabbat evening and/or morning services during the year. (Early Bar/Bat Mitzvahs require 2 Torah Study sessions as well.) Requirements also apply to 6 th grade PARDES students. |
| 7 | Seventh Grade | | 7 th Grade students (or before if applicable) and families, are asked to utilize the many Shabbat experiences at Beth Israel. To this end we will require the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least two sessions of Torah Study (Saturday mornings, 8:45-9:45am, year-round)• At least four Friday night services.• At least four Saturday morning services. |

These requirements also apply to 6th and 7th grade students who are currently enrolled at Pardes.

Students attending Jewish residential summer camps will receive service stickers as follows:

2 Friday night, 2 Saturday morning and 1 Torah Study session. Parents are responsible for informing the Religious School of attendance at summer camp to receive credit.

Seventh Grade Religious School Information

Seventh graders are expected to attend the entire year of the program, regardless of when their Bar or Bat Mitzvah occurs. Our seventh grade program is comprised of two components: The *Gesher* Class, which is an ongoing program that runs throughout the entire school year, takes place on Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. The topics are modular, allowing for students to switch easily between the *Gesher* Class and the B’nei Mitzvah Preparation class.

Seven months prior to their Bar/Bat Mitzvah (which may occur during sixth grade), our 7th graders will receive a letter informing them of their B’nei Mitzvah Preparation class start date. This class is taught by clergy and Hebrew faculty and provides small group and individualized instruction to prepare students for their Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.

Pardes Day School students will also receive a letter seven months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date informing them to begin attending B’nei Mitzvah Prep classes on Thursdays from 4:30-6:30pm.