



# **Religious School Handbook**

2017-2018 / 5777-5778

## **East Northport Jewish Center**

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Eliza Zipper, Principal • Rabbi Ian J. Silverman • Cantor Zachary Mondrow  
Eric Loring, ENJC President • Bobbi Weinstein, V.P. Education

Shimon the Righteous was among the survivors of the Great Assembly.  
He said:

*The world depends on three things– on Torah study, on the service of  
G-d, and on kind deeds.*

–from the book of *Pirkei Avot*

Our Religious School staff looks forward to partnering with our students and their families as we seek to make the study of Torah, the service of G-d, and mitzvot an integral part of our lives.

# ENJC Religious School Parent Handbook 2017-2018

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# Shalom to all of our Religious School families

## לימודי קדש באהבה

### The study of Torah with love and devotion

This has, for many years, been our school motto, and we continue to strive to reach this lofty goal. We are unique in the fact that a warm and friendly atmosphere prevails throughout our school. Our students actually enjoy attending classes. Further, the greatest challenge in Jewish education is that our students should have a love, understanding, appreciation, and strong connection to their Judaism and heritage. Our goals can be summarized briefly as follows:

- Foster an understanding and appreciation of our heritage and values
- Achieve Jewish literacy including the ability to read Hebrew
- Create a familiarity with Shabbat, the Jewish calendar and the observance of the holidays
- Ensure that our children are more than comfortable with our prayers and synagogue services
- Create an innovative, interactive, engaging, hi-tech, pro-active atmosphere that will fully engage our students interests at all times.

## The Multi-Media Center

Our Multi-Media Center is a source of great pride to all. It includes a SmartBoard and four computers. The center offers students a positive, interactive, exciting and fully engaging opportunity to appreciate their Jewish studies, utilizing the newest technology available. Further, students will have the opportunity to study interactively online, using the computers at our disposal.



## Words from our Principal

Shalom and *Bruchim HaBa'im* (Welcome) to a new school year! We are thrilled to begin another year with you!

We have many of our “All-Star” teachers returning, including Morah Dalia, Morah Debbie, Morah Leslie, Morah Margie, and Rabbi Shain. We are also excited to welcome several new teachers to our staff. Please keep an eye out in your email from them and we look forward to you meeting them on Meet The Teacher Day.

There are a lot of new changes planned for this year. Our teachers are going to continue their work to make Jewish education fun, filled with plenty of content, and meaningful to your children. We are going to continue many of the exciting changes we made to family education programs last year and work harder to bring more changes to the school.

Please be sure to check this handbook for changes to the following policies:



1. Class schedules – page 15
2. Bullying – page 21
3. Attendance - page 17
4. Items not permitted in school - 18

We have an excellent school because of the hard work of a lot of people: Our talented and hard-working teachers, the Education Committee under the expert leadership of V.P., Bobbi Weistein, the Board of Directors headed by our President Eric Loring, our kind and dedicated Rabbi Ian Silverman. We also welcome our new Cantor, Zach Mondrow, our new secretary in the main office, Mary Ryan, and our new secretary in the school office, Emily Kain. We also thank the hard work and dedication of all of our parents and grandparents, and of course

our wonderful children. It has been said that the best teachers learn from their students, and our wonderful children make it possible for our teachers to learn more and more each year.

In the Book of Devarim, it says “You shall teach them [our commandments] to your children and speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk on the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.” It is with this kind of enthusiasm that I approach our new school year, and I look forward to being a partner in education with you. My door is always open if you have any ideas or feedback you would like to share.

*Shanah Tovah Oom'tookah* – a healthy and sweet New Year to you.

Eliza Zipper, Principal

## Words from our Rabbi

It is with great anticipation that I welcome you to a new school year at ENJC Religious School. I take personal pride in visiting the classrooms and engaging the children in Torah lessons or discussions surrounding the holidays. Why is the LAMED the tallest of the Hebrew letters? Because “lamed” is the root of the word we use for “learning.” The root “lamed” is used in many words having to do with study. “Melamed” means a “teacher” – someone who makes students of us! “Lomed” means “learns.” “Talmid” means “student,” and “talmud” means “teaching.” So why is the lamed the tallest letter? Because learning allows us an overview to see a bigger and more expanded picture; because study makes us prouder Jews who stand with their backs straight and their chin up; because in Jewish tradition the sage was always considered as being at the highest rung. And finally because learning allows us to stand on the shoulders of generations past so as to deepen our own understanding of the present and to bring new meanings into Judaism for the future.

Our teachers are committed to maximizing your children’s learning experience so as to make them proud and knowledgeable Jewish youngsters. We hope that you will do your very best to make certain that his or her attendance and synagogue experience is as positive as it can be as well. And we also hope you will help set an example of strong Jewish values and engagement in your home and synagogue. May all of us work to make sure that our children stand tall from their learning experience. Then we will indeed have a most meaningful prosperous and joyous New Year.

– Rabbi Ian

## Words from our Cantor

Dear Hebrew School Families,

First, let me thank you all for the warm welcome that I have received since my arrival this summer. I look forward to visiting each class during the year as we embark together on journeys through Jewish music, Torah trope, and other wonderful topics. Our tradition teaches us “Instruct a wise man, and he will grow wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will gain in learning” (Proverbs 9:9). This passage teaches us that learning is a continuous process. In religious school your children will take their first steps in their Jewish education. It is my sincere hope that through this experience, your child will develop a deep love and respect for his/her precious heritage, as well as a strong sense of Jewish pride and identity

I look forward to seeing you and your children around the building.

– Cantor Zachary M. Mondrow

# Words from our Vice-President of Education

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! The lazy days of summer are now over and it is time for us all to focus on the school year ahead.

There are many changes to our synagogue this year and, as I've said before, in our case, CHANGE IS GOOD! We welcome Mary Ryan as our new secretary in the main office. We also welcome Cantor Zack Mondrow as our new chazan, who will be working with your children doing music and tutoring for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Our teaching staff and school secretary have also changed and I am very happy to say that we have added several new teachers that I am positive the children will love. Whew, we've been busy!

I am looking forward to meeting with all of you at our Back to School/Meet the Teacher breakfast on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 am. I will be there, along with our wonderful principal, Eliza Zipper, and teachers, to answer any and all of your questions or concerns. Please make every effort to attend.

As you know, we are a warm, caring and above all, school of excellence. Your children and their education and well-being are our top concern. This cannot be accomplished by Eliza or me alone. This is a group effort. Please sign up when asked to be a class parent, participate in class activities or join our active Education Committee, and above all, just be a part of your child's religious school experience. If we all start the year with a positive attitude it will trickle down to your child—Works every time—

This is going to be the BEST YEAR EVER!

From my family to yours, a very Happy New Year

– Bobbi Weinstein





## ENJC Religious School Calendar 2017-2018 / 5777-5778

### September

Meet the Teacher – Sunday, September 10th at 10 am

First Day of School – Wednesday, September 13th

Family Service – September 16th

**Rosh Hashanah School Closed – Wednesday, September 20th - Thursday, September 21st**

### October

**Sukkot School Closed – Wednesday October 4th-Thursdays, October 5th**

**Columbus Day School Closed – Sunday, October 8th - Monday, October 9th**

**Shemini Atzeret School Closed – Wednesday, October 11th**

**Simchat Torah School Closed – Thursday, October 12th**

Education Committee- October 16th

Family Service – October 28th

### November

Family Service – November 11th

**Veteran's Day Weekend School Closed – Sunday, November 12th**

Gan Family Education – Wednesday, November 15th

Pre-Gan Family Education – Sunday, November 19th



Education Committee- November 20th

**Thanksgiving School Closed – Wednesday, November 22nd – Sunday, November 26th**

## December

Daled/Hay Shabbat Morning – Saturday, December 2

Education Committee- December 4th

Gimmel Family Education – Monday, December 4th

## January

**School Closed - Sunday, December 24th – Monday, January 1st**

Bet Shabbat – Friday, January 5th

**Martin Luther King Day - School Closed Sunday, January 14th- Monday, January 15th**

Aleph field trip to the Jewish Experience at the Suffolk Y JCC – Monday, January 22

Education Committee- January 22nd

Start of second term – January 23rd

Family Service – January 27th

Tu B'Shvat - Wednesday, January 31st. Celebrations in class Wednesday, January 31st and Thursday, February 1st

## February

World Wide Wrap- February 4th

Pre-Gan/Gan Shabbat – Friday, February 9th

Family Service – February 10th

Aleph Siddur Making – Monday, February 12th

**President's Week - School Closed Sunday, February 18th - Sunday, February 25th**

Education Committee- February 26th

**Purim - School Closed Wednesday, February 28th. Students attend Megillah Reading instead.**

## March

Gimmel Shabbat – Friday, March 9th

Hay Family Education – Monday, March 12th

Education Committee- March 19th

Family Service – March 17th

**Passover - School Closed Thursday, March 29 – Sunday, April 9**

## April

Yom HaShoah - Wednesday, April 11th. In class celebrations April 11th and 12th

Bet Family Education - April 15th

Education Committee- April 16th

Yom HaZikaron/Yom HaAtzmaut - Wednesday, April 18th/Thursday, April 19th. In class celebrations

Daled Family Education - Sunday, April 22nd

Family Service – April 28th

Aleph Consecration Dinner and Service – April 27th

## May

Lag B'Omer BBQ – Wednesday, May 3rd

Family Service – May 12th

Last Days of School – Sunday, May 13th (Pre-Gan), Wednesday, May 16th and Thursday, May 17th.

Graduation – Friday, May 18th

Education Committee- May 23rd

# Important Notes from the Principal

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

### **Arrival:**

Please drop your children off at the Religious School entrance located at the rear of the building.

### **Dismissal:**

Our dismissal procedure will be as follows:

- Students will be dismissed from the Bet Midrash doors, located at the front of our building.
- All of our staff and teenage assistants will oversee this process, thus ensuring the safety of our students.
- Parents are encouraged to form two lines as you enter the ENJC parking lot and all staff will ensure that the dismissal process is orchestrated quickly, efficiently and safely.

## Family Services and Attendance

Attendance by our students reached record levels last year. *Yishar Koachem* to all of you! Please be aware that we are monitoring attendance of all of our students (refer to page 18), and consequently, please make every effort to meet the required number. Note that we refer to Shabbat as *Shabbat Kodesh*– a holy and beautiful day. With this concept in mind, when your children attend Shabbat services in the sanctuary or Family Services in the Bet Midrash, please have them dress appropriately as well.

## Emergency Information and Contact Form

We have requested e-mail information from all of our families. It is absolutely essential that you furnish us with this information for the following reasons:

- This is the most important vehicle and manner of communication with all of our families.
- As we are trying to move in the direction of being a “paperless synagogue,” we rarely send home flyers anymore.
- In the event that Religious School is cancelled due to inclement or dangerous weather conditions, I will transmit an e-mail to ALL families at the earliest possible opportunity. In this manner, there will be no confusion as to the status of school on that particular day.

## School Closing

In the event of inclement or dangerous weather conditions, please be aware that if school is cancelled, the following procedures will be followed:

1. As mentioned, an e-mail will be transmitted to all families immediately once the decision has been reached to cancel classes for the day. You can also reach me at [Principal@enjc.org](mailto:Principal@enjc.org)
2. We will contact Cablevision's News 12 with this information as well.

## Family Education

Last year's programs were really quite outstanding. Please participate with your children! This year they will be held during school hours, 4:30 - 6:30 pm for weekday classes, and 9:00 - 11:00 am for Sunday classes.



# Religious School Program

It is our belief that a religious school must be a cooperative venture of the Rabbi, Principal, Cantor, teachers, educators, and parents. We must all walk *Yad B'Yad*—hand in hand to meet this challenging task of providing our children with a meaningful, exciting, engaging and inter-active Jewish education. The East Northport Jewish Center, through its Education Committee and professional staff, strives to assemble the finest quality staff of educators available, the most effective materials and hi-tech methods for use in the classrooms and a positive learning environment.

A primary thrust of our Religious School is to teach our students to read the Siddur proficiently and to take on leadership roles in the service.

Our Hebrew reading program for the school is Siddur-based. The Siddur program teaches vocabulary, liturgy and Siddur grammar. It offers opportunity for reading drills, translations, special patterns and review. The Hebrew language activities include prayer book word recognition, vocabulary reinforcement, root word structures and practice necessary for fluent reading. Use of Siddur-based materials ensures knowledge of the geography of the Siddur.

Bible, as well as history, ethics, and Jewish lifecycle events are important components of our program and are conducted at each grade level. The Bible and its precepts are an important part of our program, in conjunction with a weekly discussion of the *Parshat Hashavua*—the weekly Torah portion, which is presented to the students by Rabbi Silverman.

Our exciting program includes weekly Kiddush/Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations. Our Multi-Media Center offers a marvelous, engaging and hi-tech component to our school which obviously provides our students with Smartboard and computer technology.

Our school motto is *Limudei Kodesh B'Ahava*—  
The Study of Torah with Love and Affection.



# Aims

Our aims are to provide a learning environment that encourages students to:

- Affirm their identity and bind themselves to *K'lal Yisrael*, the Jewish People, both in word and deed
- Develop spiritual and ethical sensitivity so that they are governed by the moral and religious tradition of Judaism
- Appreciate and cherish the study of Hebrew, the language of the Jewish People, the relationship being indispensable for a rich and deep understanding of our Jewish heritage and ties to modern Israel
- Develop an ability to participate in traditional Jewish observances and practice in the school, synagogue and the home
- Enjoy Shabbat and festivals and observe Jewish ceremonies that mark the significant occasions of their lives
- Gain an awareness of the harmony between ideals and traditions of American democracy and the ideals and traditions of Judaism so that we are happily adjusted to our environment as Jews and citizens
- Develop as Jews who value and practice *Tefillah* (prayer)
- Affirm as Jews our historic bond to *Eretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel
- Express our kinship with *Kehilat Yisrael* and actively seek to further the welfare of Jews throughout the work
- Learn to support, develop and participate in the life of the synagogue
- Gain sensitivity to the needs of the less fortunate and express it through the giving of *tzedakah* and doing acts of kindness

We recognize the need to strengthen the fabric of Jewish life, ensure the future of Judaism and the Jewish people and to provide the links, which bond us together as a people.





## Class Schedules

Pre-Gan	Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 am
Gan	Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Bet, Daled	Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm, and Sundays, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Aleph, Gimmel	Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Hay	Mondays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

The school office is closed Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 3:00-7:00pm; Sunday from 8:15 am - 12:15 pm.

## Shabbat Family Services Schedule 2017-2018/ 5777-5778

Family Services meet in the Bet Midrash from 10:30 am to 11:30 am on the following Shabbat mornings:

September 16	February 10
October 28	March 17
November 11	April 28
January 27	May 12

Services will incorporate *Shacharit*, Torah and *Musaf* to be participatory in nature by the children and families explanatory and contains both English and Hebrew, with It is concluded by a wonderful Kiddush. This program learning experience from the Religious School, and their Bar and Bat Mitzvah that will follow.



Services. This Family Service is designed who are present. The service is fast paced, students leading most of the prayers. enhances and strengthens the *Tefillot* builds confidence in the children for



# Policies And Procedures

## Arrival and Dismissal

- For security purposes, the Religious School door will be locked at all times.
- If you need to enter the building for any reason, please use the buzzer to the right of the door to identify yourself.

## Arrival

Pull your car up parallel to the Religious School entrance and let your child off. Your child can ring the bell and you will be buzzed in by a member of our staff. Please wait until you see your child enters the building before leaving. Children should not be dropped off prior to 4:15 p.m., as our staff is busy preparing for classes prior to 4:15 p.m.

## Early Dismissal Policy

In the event that you need to pick up your child prior to the regularly scheduled dismissal, the following policy must be followed:

- Please send a note to your child's teacher. This note must include the approximate pick-up time and the name of the person who will pick up your child. This designated person should have proper ID. Parents must list this designated person on your children's registration forms or your child will not be released from the school. All designated persons must be 18 years of age or older.
- Wait in the religious school office while the office administrator gets your child. Make sure you have proper ID with you. Parents should not go directly to their child's classroom or the Bet Midrash. Sign your child out.

In order to help us maintain decorum in the classrooms and minimize the overall disruption that occurs when students are picked up early, please make every effort to pick up your child BETWEEN the following sessions:

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Snack, Torah study and review of prayers
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	General studies
6:00 – 6:30 pm.	Talmud studies, Shabbat or Havdalah celebrations, chanting or prayers

## Safety Procedures

The safety of our children is as important as their education. We have set up procedures and regulations to ensure their safety.

- We will hold periodic fire drills to ensure that everyone is able to evacuate the building quickly and safely under emergency conditions. We also anticipate at least one emergency lock-down drill.
- You will need to fill out emergency contact and dismissal information completely. It is imperative that you include the names of any individual who has your permission to pick up your child. Please let the Principal know if there is anyone to whom your child should not be released.
- If your child has any medical conditions or takes medication on a regular basis, please include this information on the form or if you prefer, contact the Principal.
- Please inform the Religious School immediately if you need to add, delete or change information. It is essential that our information is current at all times.

## Dress Code

Because we are a Conservative Religious School, and since students are engaged in prayer and Torah study, boys must wear a Kippah at all times. Another head covering may not be worn in place of a *Kippah*.

## Attendance

School begins promptly at 4:30 pm during the week and 9:00 am on Sundays. Your child's regular attendance is one of the most important factors determining the success of his/her educational experience. A note explaining your child's absence should accompany him/her upon returning to school. Students are expected to make up missed assignments due to absence, as soon as possible. Please note that in order for your child to graduate on an annual basis, students must maintain an attendance record of 75%. If your child is unable to maintain this attendance standard, please contact the Principal in order to discuss the situation. **Any students who arrives after 4:45 pm on weekdays or 9:15 am on Sundays will be considered late. 4 Late arrivals or early dismissals will be counted as one absence.**


## Keep it at Home!

The following items are not permitted in school. If students are found with them, they may be confiscated by teachers or synagogue staff.

- Electronic devices – This includes, but is not limited to phones and tablets. Students are not permitted to keep them, even if they are on “off” or “silent” mode. To improve students’ face-to-face communication skills, increase attentiveness, and decrease bullying, students are not permitted to have electronic devices at any point during school hours, including snack or break times. Teachers will collect any electronic devices at the beginning of class and return them at dismissal.
- Toys – Fidget Spinners and Fidget Cubes, along with other toys, are not permitted in school since they cause distractions in class. We recognize there may be students with conditions that require something to fidget with during class. If your child falls into this category, please submit an IEP or doctor’s note explaining the child’s need. After parents submit documentation, those student may bring fidget items that do not make any noise and can be kept out of site from other students. Fidget Spinners and Fidget Cubes will still not be permitted in these cases.

## Snacks

ENJC is a nut-free school. All snacks and foods must be certified “nut free.” Parents should inform us of any and all allergies so that we may maintain an updated list for health and safety.

Students may purchase snacks from the Religious School secretary for \$1 at 5:30 pm. or they may bring small snacks from home to be eaten in class. All processed foods must carry a Kashrut symbol! Snacks without the proper Kosher markings will be confiscated. Please refrain from snacking on grape products (soda, juice, etc.) without Kashrut symbols or candies, like Skittles®, which have coatings that may contain non-Kosher ingredients. When in doubt, consult the Principal. Snacks may be eaten only during times designated by the classroom teacher. Please limit snack to one food item and one drink. The most commons signs to recognize Kosher food products are  and K.

## Books and Supplies

Books and supplies are normally distributed on the first day of class. Please see that your child has all of his/her textbooks, a notebook, a pen or pencil and his/her Siddur every day. If possible, your child should have a school bag especially designated for Religious School.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned to reinforce material covered in class. It will not be so time consuming to prevent students from fulfilling their secular school responsibilities. In addition, oral reciting of Hebrew prayers will assure your child's success. Please have your child read aloud on a daily basis. Please see to it that your child completes his/her Religious School assignments.

## Notices Sent Home

It is important to ask your child for school notices. We also recommend that you refer to the school calendar on a regular basis to learn of events in the Synagogue and Religious School. Emails will also be sent from both Principal and the Religious School Secretary.

## School Closings

In the event of inclement or dangerous weather conditions, please be aware that if school is cancelled, the following procedures will be followed:

1. As mentioned, an e-mail will be transmitted to all families immediately once the decision has been reached to cancel classes for the day. You can also contact the principal directly by email at [Principal@enjc.org](mailto:Principal@enjc.org)
2. We will simultaneously contact Cablevision's News 12 with this information, as well.

## *Derech Eretz* (Respectful Behavior)

Our synagogue is the home of our Jewish community. Please treat it with respect. Judaism emphasizes respect for other people, as well. Students should always treat each other and their teacher as they themselves would like to be treated.

# Discipline Policy and Code of Conduct

Because we are committed to offering our students a quality Jewish education, we have adopted the following policy which applied to every child in our school. Our hope is that each student will experience a rewarding education in a positive, productive learning environment.

## Required Behavior:

- Treat other students and your teacher as you yourself would like to be treated
- Respect the subject (Judaica)
- Respect the feelings and opinions of others
- Respect the Synagogue's property
- Follow teachers' instructions
- Speak in class only when given permission
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- Fighting, foul language and violent acts will not be tolerated

Every effort will be made to deal with disciplinary problems in a productive manner. Every effort will be made to resolve behavioral problems in the classroom. If a child continues to have behavioral problems and must be sent out of class, the following will occur:

- **First time:** The student will be spoken with and returned to class at the discretion of the Religious School Principal.
- **Second time:** The student will be spoken with and the Religious School Principal will discuss the situation with their parents and a written summary will be included in the student's cumulative file.
- **Third time:** The student will be spoken with and a conference will be scheduled with the parents in an attempt to resolve the situation before the child is allowed to return to class.
- **Fourth time:** The student will be suspended and will not be allowed to return to class until a second conference takes place. The Religious School Principal has the authority to decide when, and if the student will return to class. The student may be placed on a special schedule of attendance.

- **Fifth time:** If the behavior does not change, the student will be expelled for the remainder of the school year, by a committee consisting of the Religious School Principal and the Vice President of Education. The student's return to school the following year will be at the discretion of the school, and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah may be cancelled.

## Bullying Policy

"Bullying" is mean behavior that is done to harm someone, and that is done more than once. It includes the following different types.

- Verbal bullying – Includes name-calling, making jokes, teasing, threats.
- Physical bullying – Includes hitting, kicking, punching, poking, tripping, or otherwise physically harming someone.
- Social or relational bullying – Includes excluding someone from a group, making rules of friendship, spreading rumors, humiliation, teasing, or giving mean looks.
- Cyberbullying – Includes doing any of the above on an electronic device.

Bullying can interfere with a student's performance or well-being and is not permitted at ENJC. Students will receive one or more of the following penalties if they engage in bullying. Please note these penalties are not to be considered as steps. Depending on the situation, we may utilize some penalties and skip others.

- Oral warning
- Communication with parent
- Parent/Teacher meeting
- Suspension from school



# Curriculum Goals

We hope to teach our students how to live a rewarding Jewish life. The studies of the life cycle, *Kashrut*, social issues, and current events, will be unifying goals of what we teach in Religious School. Fluency in Hebrew reading and prayer skills will enable our students to daven in any synagogue at any time. Students are required to attend Shabbat services to further develop these important Jewish life skills. Grades Alef through Hay meet regularly with the cantor to learn prayer melodies, holiday songs and the *Talmud*. Students in the Alef, Bet, and Gimmel classes lead the Congregation in Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday evenings during the course of the academic year. Daled and Hay students celebrate their class Shabbat at a Saturday morning service.

Professional tutoring is also available free of charge. Our individual tutoring sessions are designed to help students build and enhance basic skills and have a very positive impact on the educational experience being offered.

The traditions of Jewish celebrations are taught at all levels. Traditional learning will always be combined with real life experiences from apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah to weekly Shabbat celebrations. Jewish history will be presented at age appropriate levels from biblical lore to the present.







## Shabbat Attendance

### Shabbat Attendance Requirements

All students in grades Alef through Hay are encouraged to attend fifteen (15) Shabbat services from June 2017 through May, 2018, with Sunday services included. Holiday services and Shabbat services in synagogues other than the East Northport Jewish Center will not count toward this requirement. This requirement will be carefully monitored by the Principal and Education Committee. When our students attend Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Simchat Torah, Purim or any other holiday or special service, these attendances will count toward the required 15 services.

- Students in Alef, Bet, and Gimmel must attend at least ten (10) Family Services. The remaining five (5) may be Family Services, regular Shabbat morning services, Friday evening, or Sunday services.
- Students in Daled and Hay are strongly encouraged to attend Friday and Saturday Shabbat services to prepare for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. We suggest that they attend at least ten (10) regular Shabbat services in the main sanctuary. The remaining five (5) may be Family Services, regular Shabbat morning services, Friday evening, or Sunday services.
- Pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah students must attend a minimum of fifteen (15) regular Shabbat morning services during the six (6) months prior to their celebrations. In accordance with guidelines set by the ritual committee, failure to fulfill this requirement may result in the suspension of Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons.

- Students in Pre-Gan and Gan are not required to attend Shabbat services, but are encouraged to do so. Their names will also be proudly displayed on the colorful “Shabbat Attendance Poster” in the school hallway.
- There will be three index-card file boxes, marked “Friday,” “Saturday,” and “Sunday” on the table outside the main sanctuary. Inside the boxes, filed alphabetically, will be cards for each student.
- When your child arrives for services, he/she should find the appropriate file box, then find the index card with their name on it. Remove their index card and place it into the wooden shoebox, also on the table.
- Every Monday, our secretary will take the index cards out of the shoebox, log the attendance, by date, in a computer file and note it on a bulletin board display outside the Religious School office. The cards will be replaced in the appropriate file boxes.
- Index cards should never be taken out of the building.

## Tzedakah

### Tzedakah and the Performance of Mitzvot

Judaism emphasizes each individual’s responsibility for the welfare of the entire community. Please encourage and enable your child to participate in our Gemilut Chesed—acts of loving-kindness projects.

A tzedakah box is circulated daily in all of our classes. Moneys raised by this means have been used to support a wide variety of worthy causes including the Jewish National fund, the Braille Institute, a respite center for children with cancer and their families in Jerusalem, ADD: Magen David Edom (Jewish Red Cross in Israel), and our local Jewish Family Services. Students have the opportunity to select appropriate recipients for their donations with guidance from the faculty.

The Religious School also participates in the ENJC Canned Food Drive. Please help feed local families in need by sending in canned food items to school with your child. Classes which have 100% participation in the drive in any Hebrew month are rewarded with special treats. We also recognize individual students who contribute regularly.

### *Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah*

Mitzvah Journals will be kept to record activities performed by students. Review and update of Journals will occur once a month during Havdalah. Complete information will be distributed in class.

## *Sulam Ha-Tefillah*

All classes will have their own Prayer Ladder Charts posted in the classroom.

Students will be responsible for home reading practice and evaluation by the class teacher. Individual class requirements will be distributed by grade.

## Curriculum Overview

### Pre-Gan

Kindergarten and 1st Grade (5-6 year-olds)

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 am

The Pre-Gan curriculum and associated programming introduces the children to the world of Judaism. We strive to create a positive environment where your children can explore their Judaism through arts and crafts and music, as well as other outlets. Your children will learn various bible stories, holidays, customs, and traditions. Further, the students will also initiate their Hebrew reading skills with letter recognition. In the spring we have a joint Pre-Gan/Gan Shabbaton where the children put on a performance of different Shabbat and Judaic songs for the enjoyment of all.

Text: *Let's Discover the Alef Bet*

### Gan

2nd Grade (7 year-olds)

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

The Gan class's interactive introduction to Judaism continues. The children learn the holidays, bible stories, customs, and traditions more extensively. We have a holiday magazine series that we use as supplemental work for the holiday studies. The students continue their study of Hebrew which includes letter and word recognition. The Gan class also partakes in the class Shabbaton in the spring, performing their Shabbat and Judaic songs with great precision.

Text: *Betman's Book of Hebrew Letters*

*Teach Me Torah*

## Alef

3rd Grade (8 year-olds)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Siddur Goals: *Shalom aleichem, Ma Tov, Lechu Neranina, L'cha dodi, Shema, Mi chamocha, V'shamru*, Shabbat Blessings – candles, *Kiddush* and challah

The Alef class will embark on an exciting journey into Jewish studies. The children will continue their in depth Hebrew studies and will be reading complete words and phrases, Tefillot (prayers) for Shabbat and Holidays, Torah and Israel. They will also read a book for Jewish Book month in November and write or draw a short report. The Rabbi's drash, art projects, Israeli pen pal Ki va Moed connection, and the culminating special Alef Consecration Shabbat enhances this very progressive curriculum. The Alef children will receive their own Siddurim at the Shabbat evening program, and they will cherish and read from them for many years to come.

Texts: *A Child's Bible – Lessons from the Torah*  
*My Jewish Year – Celebrating our Holidays*  
*L'Shonee – Level I*  
*Shalom Uvracha – The New Hebrew Primer (print)*  
*Siddur*

## Bet

4th Grade (9 year-olds)

Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm; Sundays, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Siddur Goals: *Ma Tov, Adon Olam, Shalom Aleichem, Shema V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, Lichu Neranina, Yism'chu, L'cha Dodee* (verses 1 and 3), *V'shamru, Tzur Mishelo*, etc.

The Bet curriculum will consist of the continued focus on Hebrew reading and very basic translation work. We will be doing prayers from the Siddur centered on the Friday night service. Holidays throughout the Jewish calendar and customs and

traditions will be an integral part of our studies. Every week the rabbi will visit in order to discuss the portion of the week in the Torah, followed by a question and answer session. Your child's religious school experience will be enhanced by art projects, music, book reports and other fun, innovative, and pertinent activities.

Texts: *Derech Bina : The Hebrew Primer*

*A Kid's Mensch Handbook*  
*Torah and You*  
*The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*  
*Read, Learn and Discover*

## Gimmel

5th Grade (10 year-olds)

Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Siddur Goals: *Shalom Aleichem, Ma Tov, Adon Olam, Shema V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, L'chu Neranina, Yishmichu, Licha Dodi, V'shamru, Kiddush, Birkat Hamazon, Aleinu, Tzur Tzur Tzur, Ayn Keloheinu, Sim Shalom and Yigdal.*

The Gimmel curriculum continues where the Bet class has left off in Hebrew. It is a more extensive program, dabbling in conversational Hebrew. We will continue to work on our prayers from the Siddur, broadening our horizons to additional prayers taken from the Friday night service. The study of each holiday in the Jewish calendar, customs and traditions, and a study of the Jewish homeland, Israel, which will include an in-depth project, will be integral parts of our studies this year. Through art, music, book reports and other interesting and exciting activities, the Gimmel year should rock.

Texts: *Journeys Through the Siddur – Friday Evening*

*The Book of Jewish Holidays*

*Welcome to Israel*

*The Explorer's Bible (Vol. I)*

*The Lifecycle Journey*

## Daled

6th Grade (11 year olds)

Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm; Sundays, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Siddur Goals: The prayer skills focus switches to the Shabbat morning liturgy - *Shma, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, M'chalkayl, Yismech Moshe, Ashrei, L'dor Vador, Yismichu, Sim Shalom, Ayn Kelohaynu, Amar Rabbi Elazar, Alaynu, Adon Olam, Kiddush*

The Daled program continues their Hebrew skills program. The students will begin to learn the Shabbat morning *Tefillot*—prayers in the classroom and with the Chazan. The Torah is examined and studied along with the beginning of

*Talmud* and *Tanach*. The History of the Jewish people will focus on both the Ashkenaz and Sepharad Jews, as well as their economic and social development. The curriculum will also include a book report by a Jewish author with a Judaic theme, current events, modern day Israel and the Holocaust. Weekly Torah portions will be discussed with rabbi. The students will be assigned a *Divrei Torah* and act as leaders in our Junior Congregation. These new responsibilities will teach them to be prepared for becoming *B'nei/B'not Mitzvah*.

Texts: *Likroh U'Lvarech–To Read and To Bless, (print)*  
*Making A Difference – Jewish Spirituality*  
*Experience Modern Israel*  
*Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays*

## Hay

7th Grade (12 year-olds)

Mondays and Thursday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Siddur Goals: We expand on the Siddur goals mastered in the previous year (Daled class.) Focus is mostly on the Shabbat morning service as this is when our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students celebrate their smachot. The Siddur goals are extensive as our students have mastered numerous Shabbat Friday evening prayers during their previous years in school. The opening paragraphs of the Amida prayer is added this year.

*Arvit L'Shabbat* – Shabbat Evening: *Shabbat shalom, Mah Tov, Shalom Aleichem, Tsur Mishelo, L'chu N'ranena, Yismechu Hashamayim, L'cha Dodi, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, V'shamru, Kiddush* and *Aleinu*.

Shabbat Morning: *V'ahavta, Amida* (opening paragraphs), *Yismach Moshe, Ashrei, Amida* (opening paragraphs), *L'dor V'Dor, Yismichu, Sim Shalom, Amar Rabi Elazar, Ein Keloheinu, Aleinu, Adon Olam*

The Hay curriculum will fine tune student's prayer skills and Hebrew reading proficiency. Weekly Torah study will intensify as students prepare to give their own *Divrei Torah* (Torah lessons) as *B'nei* and *B'not Mitzvah*. The rituals of *Tallit* and *Tefillin* will be taught. Students will continue Holocaust and Israel studies, life cycle events and Jewish moral ethics. The relevance of traditional Jewish texts and the decisions faced by modern Jewish teenagers will be among the topics addressed. On Wednesdays, students will prepare to welcome the Shabbat through a preview of the Shabbat morning prayer service. Students will be assigned to act as prayer leaders of grades Alef through Gimmel in "Family

Services” on a rotating basis. The unique and thought-provoking text of Pirkei Avot will form an important focus of the year’s Talmudic studies.

Texts: *The Jewish Life Cycle Book*

*Pirkei Avot*

*A Look into Judaism – Why be Different*

*S’aftai Tiftah – Siddur Mastery and Meaning – Vol. III*





# Curriculum Outline

## Pre-Gan Class

Jewish customs and traditions along with a great deal of emphasis on Jewish Holidays will be the main focal point of the children's studies in Pre-Gan. The children will become familiar with Judaic symbols, their significance, and many other interesting Judaic facts. Throughout their learning experience, they will do fun and exciting arts and crafts, read theme related stories and sing wonderful songs, some of which will be performed at their special Shabbat service in the springtime, in conjunction with the Gan class.

The children will be introduced, in an engaging and interactive manner, to the letters in the Hebrew alphabet, along with learning Torah and various Bible stories on an introductory level. These stories and Torah portions will be further enhanced with art projects and exciting stories of the ancestry of the Jewish people. The text book that will be utilized for our students introduction to the Hebrew language will be *Let's Discover the Alef Bet*.

## Gan Class

Hebrew letter recognition continues to be a major goal in the Gan class. In every class, the children will spend time learning new Hebrew letters and vowels of the Alef-Bet. Our aim is to successfully be able to put letters and vowels together in order to correctly form sounds, preparing them for Hebrew reading. Each child will be given their own Hebrew Alef-Bet binder which, by the end of the year, will be filled with all of the Hebrew work that they have accomplished throughout their time in the Gan class. The new Hebrew textbook will be *Teach Me Torah*, in addition to *Betman's Book of Hebrew Letters*.

Along with their Alef-Bet work, the children will spend a great deal of time learning about customs, traditions, and values along with a great emphasis on Jewish Holidays. As part of their studies, they will hear topic-appropriate stories, while also partaking in simple skits, singing songs, and engaging in wonderful art projects.

The children will also briefly study the weekly Torah portion in class, on an enjoyable but basic level, with some Bible stories being taught to a more in-depth degree. It is so very important to encourage the children's knowledge of the Torah because the Torah is the heart of every Jew and is also the story of the Jewish people.

Shabbat also plays a big role in the studies of the children. Every other week we will have a special time allotted for Shabbat, where the children will recite the Brachot and enjoy juice and challah. The children will also learn some wonderful Shabbat songs that they will be performing at their special Shabbat service in the springtime.

## Alef Class

HOLIDAYS: *My Jewish Year* is the text which starts with the Jewish holiday, *Rosh Hashanah*, and continues through the year ending with *Shavuot*. The book also has a brief message on *Yom Hashoah*. The students have a lesson about the individual holidays, and each holiday has games and puzzles to enhance their learning. There are also Hebrew prayers with transliteration and English transliteration for most of the holidays.

TORAH: *A Child's Bible* is the Torah for this class. The book starts with Genesis and the Creation story. Students then have chapters which deal with the Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their wives, the Matriarchs – Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah. The Genesis book ends with Joseph and the beginning of the Book of Exodus. Exodus tells of the birth and adult life of Moses. Each chapter has discussion sections, games, and puzzles to totally complete the overall view of the Torah portion. Further, our Rabbi will visit weekly to discuss the Torah portion of the week.

HEBREW: The students have two Hebrew books to give them a wonderful foundation of the language. *L'Shonee* is an excellent textbook with letters and vowels for enhancing fluency in Hebrew. The new text, *Shalom Uvracha*, will enable the students to read, write, and translate Hebrew. The words are simple and basic such as “Shabbat.”

This year, the students' *Tefillot*—prayers will be focused on Shabbat evening. They will learn the *brachot*, the beauty and traditions of Shabbat. Through some art projects, the enjoyment of Torah and Shabbat will excite and thrill the students. The children will enjoy singing and special events with the Chazan. Please supply your child with pencils and erasers for Hebrew, pens for other subjects, a folder for notices and flyers, and a notebook. *Kippot* for the boys. Kosher food only, and no gum please.

The new school year promises to be engaging, interactive, and a wonderful learning experience.

## Bet Class

HEBREW: With Hebrew literacy being a main focus, *Reading and Prayer Primer* is the text that blends two approaches, the whole word and phonic method, into a compact systematic teaching tool. The last unit of the text provides actual units from the *Siddur*.

TORAH: *Torah and You* is a text that is filled with stories found in the *Torah*. Value clarification exercises will help your child apply the message of the *Torah* to their everyday life. There are also value clarification exercises about famous biblical people. The biographies are about people who made the world better, or helped the Jewish community. Your children will learn that the *Torah* is timeless, and that even today, Torah helps us understand ourselves and teaches us how to live.

ISRAEL: *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt* teaches your children about the major cities and sites of Israel, Israel's people and culture, our modern and biblical ties to the Jewish homeland, and the geography of Israel.

HOLIDAYS: *Read, Learn and Discover* is a textbook/workbook revolving around the Holiday, *Torah*, Prayer, and Life Cycles. Each module consists of a picture story page and an exercise page.

VALUES: *A Kid's Mensch Handbook* book provides thought-provoking exercises, questionnaires, stories, and surveys, which allow the student to draw connections to Jewish values.

## Gimmel Class

HOLIDAYS: *The Book of Jewish Holidays* is the book that introduces students to the celebrations and customs that define the Jewish year—why we celebrate, how we celebrate—and the mitzvot of the holidays are woven together in every chapter. Activities include recipes, family activities, and creative opportunities to help the students make the holiday their own.

HEBREW: *Ot La-ba* is an innovative primer which builds an active modern Hebrew vocabulary through skills building exercises. Each letter is introduced in a creative and totally engaging manner to help your child become a successful Hebrew reader.

ISRAEL: *Welcome to Israel* is a text in which the children will learn about Israel's history, geography, and political, commercial, and cultural life. They will meet Israeli kids their own age and will find out what they do for fun, their favorite sports, foods, music, and what their schools are like. This book also includes questions for critical thinking, map-reading activities, Hebrew dictionary with English translation, mitzvahs, and intriguing facts about Israel.

TORAH: *The Explorer's Bible* is the book that conveys the biblical text and Jewish values. It allows students to participate in biblical dialogue, and gives them critical thinking exercises in age appropriate language.

LIFECYCLE: *The Life Cycle Journey* is a guide for students through the Jewish life cycle landmarks, such as being a child, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, marriage, and more.

## Daled Class

TORAH: *Making a Difference* suggests practical ways to put ethical and ritual mitzvot into our daily lives. We explore the wisdom of the sacred Jewish text and consider how to achieve our goals with mitzvot.

HEBREW: *Likroh U'Lvarech (To Read and To Bless)* is the text that provides the students' with grammar skills, *Tefillot*, and stories in Hebrew. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people. This textbook will create excitement and a positive interactive experience for the entire class.

HISTORY: *Experience Modern Israel* is a text that discusses key elements of life in Israel today, including food, sports, entertainment, environment, technology and politics.

HOLIDAYS: *Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays* is the book that engages the students' critical thinking skills with thought-provoking questions, quotes from sacred texts, and fun creative activities. In addition to this text, the Daled students will learn the *Tefillot* for the Shabbat morning service. These new skills will be the start of their responsibilities in becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Art projects for holidays, singing with the Chazan and Torah portions with the Rabbi complete the Daled curriculum. This program shows how exciting and full the year will be.

## Hay Class

The students in our Hay class are also our Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrants for the upcoming year and consequently, as we are very proud of our "Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program," our curriculum and programming is focused accordingly.

The style of teaching in the Hay class is based upon the same principles as reflected in the *Talmud*, i.e. education based upon asking important questions regarding Judaism and its values. The students then seek to find the appropriate response and answers to the questions, utilizing their own knowledge, and Talmudic sources, as well.

*PARSHAT HASHAVUA*: Each week we discuss the Torah portion of that particular week with Rabbi Silverman to gain important insight into the Torah itself. In this manner, our students discuss and study the entire Torah during the course of the year. We are very proud that the *Parshat Hashavua* is taught by our own Rabbi Ian Silverman on a weekly basis.

*Jewish Lifecycles* is a truly outstanding book that focuses on almost all of the lifecycle events in our lives, i.e. birth (*brit mila*), Bar and Bat Mitzvah, engagements, weddings, baby namings, death, the period of shiva, etc.

*Pirkei Avot* is a text that discusses the manner in which we are to lead our lives. Our students will gain a very positive insight into Judaism and the performance of mitzvot as a result of this excellent text. *Pirkei Avot* has always been our students' favorite texts throughout the years.

*Why Be Different – A Look Into Judaism* is an in-depth study of our Jewish heritage which focuses on issues of our history, heritage, the different groups within Judaism, why we need G-d, why we need laws and customs, etc. This fascinating book deals with the core issues of Judaism.

*S'ftai Tiftah Vol. 3* is a new addition to our study of Hebrew through prayer – a continuation of the text series used in Gimmel and Daled. It reflects the siddur through grammar, Tefillot, and stories. Study of this text will enhance the students' understanding and participation of Shabbat services and will enhance their Hebrew literacy.

## Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program



We are extremely proud of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah program. The culmination of our Religious School is our students' celebrations of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and most certainly this is the most important Jewish celebration that they will ever experience. Our Bar and Bat Mitzvah program has gained momentum over the past few years and, at present, is a shining example to all other schools in the area.

Most *Bnei* and *B'not Mitzvah* across the United States chant the Haftorah with blessings before and after, and perhaps a few prayers, as well. Our students typically participate in both the Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

Friday night service: Our students chant numerous parts of the service, including the Kiddush.

Shabbat morning service: Our students chant the blessings for their aliya to the Torah, the *Haftorah*, including the appropriate blessings preceding and following their chanting of the *Haftorah*. Further, they chant numerous prayers

during the *Shacharit*–morning service, as well as numerous prayers and songs during the concluding *Musaf* service. In addition, most of our students also chant their *Maftir* portion from the Torah.

We are very proud of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah program and we will continue in our efforts to further expand this program in the future.

## Tutoring Program

The definition of the word “tutor” is “to teach, especially to give individual instruction to.” Our tutoring program is designed for those children who need a little extra attention with their Hebrew reading skills. The program is very successful and is a positive and pleasant experience for the children.

Tutoring takes place every day in school, pending the availability of our tutors. Most tutoring is done by our teen graduates, with professional tutoring by Leslie Perles for our Daled and Hay students, and on an ad hoc basis for our younger students. Each child requiring tutoring will be taken out of their classroom for about 10 or 15 minutes. Nightly practice of reading at home greatly reinforces what the children have worked on through their sessions.

Our tutoring program is indeed very unique and we are extremely proud of the positive and overall results that have been achieved since its inception. The tutoring program is administered by professional Jewish educators who specialize in this field.

