



Religious School Handbook

2018-2019/5779

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When offering the Torah to the Jewish people, the Holy One said, “Your ancestors are not sufficient guarantors. Bring Me good guarantors and I shall give you the Torah.

The people responded, “Our prophets are our guarantors.” The Holy One said, “The prophets are not sufficient guarantors. Bring me good guarantors and I shall give you the Torah.

They said, “Indeed our children will be our guarantors.” The Holy One said, “Your children are good guarantors. For their sake I give the Torah to you.”

Together we can be the guarantors of the future of the Jewish people.

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 2018-2019

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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.



Words from our Principal

Jewish life and learning is a journey that unites students, parents, teachers, internal and external resources and Jewish professionals. I am very excited as we embark on this journey together and look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Our primary goal is to instill within our students and their families a love of Judaism, its traditions and celebrations and most importantly the desire to identify oneself as a Jew.

Along with our lay leadership, our journey is exciting, challenging and enriching for a quality and meaningful life. Together may we go from strength to strength.

I hope that each one of you will take the time to use this handbook throughout the year. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at principal@enjc.org.

Kol Tuv,
Frances Pearlman



Words from our Rabbi

The Shema, a beautiful prayer marking faith in one true God, is a trio of paragraphs taken from Deuteronomy and Numbers. There is an interesting difference in the order of the first and second paragraph. The first paragraph says, “teach your children diligently in sitting of your house, in the evening at bedtime and in the middle of the day,” and “bind

them as a sign on your hand and a reminder before your eyes.” The second paragraph reverses the order, saying first, “bind them as a sign on your hand, a reminder before your eyes,” and secondly, “teach them to your children...”

What do we learn from the different order? First, that as important as it is to school our young, you must also be the example by “doing” Jewish to the extent possible in your home, and alongside our Shul. Second, that as imperative as schooling our young is, it’s made exponentially more effective by walking the walk, and by setting the example. And third, that learning along with your child increases their excitement and deepens their understanding of the value of Jewish education. It is my deep hope that this year, you implement this value to its fullest extent possible. It would be a great pleasure to see you with your family in synagogue this coming year with even greater frequency than last. And please, please, speak with me if you wish to embark on a study of Judaism on your own so as to become your child’s most effective role model in deepening his or her Jewish identity. May this year be one of deep meaning, of deep learning and of deep joy.

Shana Tova,
Rabbi Ian

Words from our Vice-President of Education

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at ENJC. The classrooms may have been given a fresh coat of paint but the other changes to our Hebrew School are far more dramatic. As you have probably already heard, we hired Frances Pearlman as our new Principal. Fran comes with a wealth of experience in Jewish education and we are fortunate to have her here at ENJC. Frank Brecher and I made clear that we wanted a stronger Hebrew reading and language component as part of our school curriculum and Fran has been spending much of the summer putting things together to make that happen.

The other big change is that half of our teaching staff is new and will be bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience directly to your children. As I write this, Joan Lieberman and Susan Paddover will be joining our staff. We are thrilled to have them working with your children and know that you will be too.

A superior educational program cannot happen without your support and involvement. You will be assisting your child at home with their learning (don’t worry—there is an app for that!) but in order to be truly successful, we need you to become involved and volunteer some time to the Hebrew school. We will need people to help setup the larger spaces

for multi-class events, assist the classes as class parents, assist with the cooking events that are being planned and much more. Our program is changing and we need our teachers to focus on providing that program to our children. This is why we need YOU to commit to volunteering time to our school.

Additionally, please consider joining me on our Education Committee. Meetings are at 8:30 pm on the following Mondays: 10/15, 11/05, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/08, and 5/13. We will discuss policy, class curriculum changes, and programming. Come help shape the education of your children!

I'm sure that you have many questions. I look forward to meeting you at our Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday, September 26 and Thursday, September 27th at 6:00 pm where Fran and I will outline the things that are happening this year.

L'Shana Tovah

– Brad Becker

School Philosophy

As we embark on the journey of Jewish life and learning, ENJC as other synagogues strives to provide the best educational and celebratory experience possible. Parents in partnership with teachers and educational leaders can enhance and enrich the goal of building a Jewish identity. It is in the best interest of the child if the parent shares any unique learning or behavioral needs. ENJC will do its absolute best in providing a learning environment that takes into account all of the individual needs of its students.

Those who struggle with Hebrew language learning may be afforded an opportunity for 1:1 learning. Individual tutoring will continue as long as the students demonstrates a commitment to reach grade level by working outside the classroom.





Religious School Calendar Highlights

2018-2019 / 5778-5779

A full calendar can be accessed on the ENJC website
at www.enjc.org

September

Wednesday and Thursday, September 12th and 13th – Opening sessions

Monday, September 17th – school

September 18th and 19th – no school for observance of Yom Kippur

Thursday, September 20th – school

Monday and Tuesday, September 24th and 25th – no school for observance of Sukkot

Wednesday and Thursday, September 26th and 27th – school; Meet the Teachers Events at 6:00 pm

October

Monday and Tuesday, October 1st and 2nd – No school for observance of Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 31 – no school (professional development for teachers)

Education Committee Meeting – October 15

November

Education Committee Meeting – November 5

December

Daled/Hay Shabbat Morning – Saturday, December 2

Education Committee Meeting – December 4th

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 included 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. The multi media center at ENJC offers students an exciting, interactive and cutting edge use of technology as they engage with Judaism and Hebrew. Classes will be scheduled every other week to take advantage of both the Smartboard and the computers in directed research, learning and presentation development. Students will be expected to follow the guidelines for the appropriate use of the technology and resources.

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.



Family Education

Family education programming is designed to engage multi-ages in the celebration of Judaism, including holidays, values, history and more. **Please mark your calendars** with the dates below and watch for further details.

October 28th 10-12 PM Pre-Gan- 3rd grade families

February 3rd 10-12 pm 4th-5th grade families



The Multi-Media Center

The Multi-Media Center at ENJC offers students an exciting, interactive and cutting edge use of technology as they engage with Judaism and Hebrew. Class will be scheduled every other week to take advantage of both the Smartboard and the computers in directed research, learning and presentation development. Students will be expected to follow the guidelines for appropriate use of the technology and resources.

Class Schedules

Pre-Gan	Mondays, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Gan	Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Bet, Daled, Hey	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Aleph, Gimmel	Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

School 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

Please pull your car up parallel to the Religious School entrance and let your child off. A staff member will be at the door until 4:35. After that, your child can ring the bell and be buzzed in by a member of our staff. Please wait until you see your child enter 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

Early dismissal is disruptive to all. Please do your best to keep early dismissal to urgent situations only. If your child must leave early, please send an email or call the school at 631-368-6474. Parents/guardians must come into the Religious School office and a staff person will get your child and ask you to sign out on the early dismissal roster. Parents are requested **NOT** to go directly to the classroom. Please make sure you have proper ID with you.

Dismissal

At normal dismissal, students will gather in the Beit Midrash with two staff members who will monitor car pool pick-up. Parents are of course welcome to come into the building to get their child from the Beit Midrash.



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.
- Parents will be notified of any planned drills in advance.
- In the event any contact information for the parents changes (email, phone, etc.), please share the information with the school. It is essential that our information is current at all times.

Other School Policies and Procedures

- **Toys**, electronic or other similar distractions are discouraged.
- **Fidget spinners** and other attention enhancements will be distributed by the teacher in consultation with the principal.
- **Snacks** may be purchased from the Religious School office before 4:30 or at a time determined by the teacher.
- **All snacks** brought into the building must be certified kosher by either **U** or K.
- Students are encouraged to have an **ENJC book bag** which contains all the books and material distributed in their classroom. **Bet-Hey students should also include 3 pencils/pens, a yellow or pink highlighter and two pocket folders.**
- **At the beginning** of each class every student will be asked to silence their phone and put it away out of the sight of other students and teachers.
- In the event a student needs to call home he/she will be making the call from the office.

Dress Code

During class and prayer, males are expected to wear a *kippah*. Another type of head covering may not be worn in its place. Females are afforded the option of wearing a *kippah*.



Attendance

School begins promptly at 4:30 pm. Students who arrive after 4:40 pm are asked to check in at the office. The weekly schedule has been designed to meet the needs of our families. Consistent attendance is critical to both academic achievement and a sense of belonging. In the event of two consecutive absences, the teacher will reach out to the home and email the missed work.

Because there will be regular assessments, parents will be kept informed as to whether the student is at grade level.

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. An e-mail will be sent to all families immediately once the decision has been reached to cancel classes for the day.
2. Cablevision News 12 will carry the announcement.

Respect & Reinforcement

Second language learning and a sense of identity require time, passion and commitment beyond the time spent in class at ENJC. Opportunities for family experiences, celebrations and learning are all part of ENJC. Students are expected to put in time outside of class to reinforce the Hebrew learning that takes place within class. Specific apps for Hebrew learning will be circulated. Parents will be apprised of any at-home assignments.

Behavior

Respect for each other, the synagogue and what takes place at ENJC guides each one of us every day. In or out of the classroom, in the sanctuary, in the hallways, our students are asked to behave appropriately and respectfully.

Code of Conduct Policy

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

In the event of inappropriate behavior and the student is removed from class the following steps will be initiated:

- **First Time:** A discussion with the principal about what is expected appropriate behavior and what changes are necessary.
- **Second Time:** After a discussion with the principal the student will be given 24 hours to inform his/her parents about what transpired. The principal will then reach out to the parents to discuss strategies and expected changes.
- **Third Time:** In the event that a student is removed for the third time, he/she will not be permitted to return without being accompanied by a parent during class time.

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. Depending on the situation, one or more these steps maybe taken:

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



Shabbat Attendance

Shabbat Attendance Requirements

All students in grades Alef-Hey are expected to attend 15 Shabbat and holiday services at ENJC September, 2018- May, 2019. These services may include Friday evening, Shabbat morning, holiday services or weekday minyan. Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation includes attendance at at least 5 Bar/Bat Mitzvah services at ENJC. Shabbat and holiday services attendance will be recorded on the Shabbat attendance poster in the school hallway.

- 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 means righteous giving and is a participatory value at ENJC. There will be weekly tzedakah collections in class. Students will engage in the allocation decision of the year-long collection. Classroom discussion will address the Jewish value and mitzvah about collective and individual responsibility for our fellow human beings.



Curriculum Overview

In addition to the stated texts, teachers and students will be provided with additional resources and materials. Participation in grade level Shabbat services helps to build community and to reinforce the classroom learning.

Pre-Gan

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

Mondays, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Text Year 1: *Building Jewish Life: Beginnings*

Year 2: *TBD*

The primary goal of Pre-Gan, both first and second year, is to familiarize the students with the people and places of the synagogue and the association of Jewish ritual items with the celebration of the cycle of the Jewish calendar.

A secondary focus is the introduction and use of Jewish value vocabulary including: *mitzvah*, *Tzedakah*, *Shabbat*, *bracha*, *Torah*, *Beit Midrash* and others.

Gan

2nd Grade (7 year-olds)

Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Text: *U'vracha pre-primer*

A Child's Garden of Torah

Included in Gan's curriculum is the introduction of Hebrew letters and sounds beginning with familiar words such as *Shabbat*, *Bracha*, *Torah*, etc. A second component is the introduction of Torah characters and lessons. Reinforcement and celebration of the calendar of the Jewish holidays and events continues.



Alef

3rd
(8 year-

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

Texts: *Alef Bet Quest*

Building Jewish Life Tzedakah

The Alef curriculum explores the concept of the cycle of the Torah, as well as the characters and their relationships in Genesis and Exodus. The values and lessons that can be gleaned from these books are translated to our lives today; e.g. be hospitable like Abraham and Sarah, be a leader like Moses, be kind like Rebecca, etc. In addition, mastery of the entire Hebrew alphabet and the vowels is a priority, as well as the development of Hebrew decoding skills using simple prayers and blessings.

Bet

4th Grade (9 year-olds)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Texts: *Shalom U'vracha*

Welcome to Israel

Pirkei Tefilla- Sh'ma

The Bet curriculum moves from learning about the holidays to their celebration and contextualization within American Jewish life, while maintaining tradition and practice. A critical component of this year's curriculum is building an attachment for the land, people and history of Israel. In addition to geography and location, there is a focus on the builders of Israel and the cultural uniqueness of the State of Israel. The challenges and historical conflicts will also be addressed in an age appropriate manner.

Development of Hebrew reading fluency using components of the Shabbat morning worship service as well as the decoding of unfamiliar passages is the goal.

Gimmel



Grade
olds)

5th Grade (10 year-olds)

Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Texts: *Journeys Through the Siddur*

Be Your Best Self

Pirkei Tefillah- Avot V'Imahot

While continually reviewing the content of the Torah, a focus becomes the structure and contents of the entire Bible (*Tanach*). Students will be afforded the opportunity to examine and interpret passages in the Torah while developing critical thinking skills to support the reading of Torah text.

In addition to adding to the repertoire and mastery in reading of prayers, students will explore the structure of the Jewish worship service, differentiating between Shabbat and weekday. Students will also become familiar with the blessing formula and the many blessings that are incorporated into Jewish life, including Chanukah, Passover, Shabbat and other blessings of commandment and appreciation.



Daled

6th Grade (11 year olds)

Thursdays, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Texts: *Pirkei Tefillah: G'vurot, Torah blessings, the Torah Service*

Life Cycle Journey

Our Shared World

Siddur Goals: The prayer skills focus switches to the Shabbat morning liturgy - *Shma, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, Ashrei, Yismichu, Sim Shalom, Ayn Kelohaynu, Adon Olam, Kiddush*

The enrichment and enhancement of Jewish life through the markings of life cycle events will be the main focus of Daled. The concept of *Brit* (covenant) will be the unifying theme with the goal of defining Jewish community through practice, observance and history. Moving towards the milestone of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a major focus of this year is the mastery of prayers of the Torah service and reinforcement of additional Shabbat prayers and blessings.

Hay

7th Grade (12 year-olds)

Mondays and Thursday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Texts: *Pirkei Tefillah: Opening the Ark, Taking out the Torah*

Pirkei Tefillah : Aleynu

Pirkei Avot

As students progress through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah experience and develop the skills for leading a Shabbat worship experience, the focus becomes our community and its values. Through the study of the Holocaust the value of education and tolerance, the detriment of bigotry, fear and prejudice become the focal lessons and messages. Defining a “bystander” and an “upstander” is explored and applied to our living today through the writings in *Pirkei Avot*.



Tutoring Program

Those students who are in need of tutoring and additional support in Hebrew are identified by the classroom teacher. The tutor will maintain an individual record of progress for the child. Practice and review of the material assigned by the tutor is expected in order for the tutoring to continue.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program

We are extremely proud of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah program. Every effort is made to meet the needs of the individual student. Students will be assigned a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date during their 5th grade year. During both the 6th and 7th grade year, there will be an informational meeting for families to discuss the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in detail. Individual tutoring begins 6 to 8 months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, meeting with the tutor on a weekly basis. The full Bar/Bat Mitzvah handbook is available via the ENJC website. Mastery begins with the Haftorah blessings, Haftorah portion, Torah blessings, Torah portion and various prayers, to be led by the student during the Friday evening and Saturday service. As students progress, additional prayers and/or Torah reading may be added. In addition, students work with the Rabbi in the preparation and presentation of a D'var Torah, sharing lessons from their Torah reading. Students also engage in a Mitzvah project which is discussed and planned with the Rabbi.

