


WENDY & AVRON
FOGELMAN
RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL

Parent Handbook
2011-2012 / 5772
updated Jan. 18, 2012

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Wendy and Avron Fogelman Religious School at Temple Israel. We have prepared this handbook to answer your questions and give you more information about everything we do here. I encourage you to read it so you can become familiar with our program and policies.

Before you read the handbook, I would like to make an important point about your child's Jewish education. With only a few hours on Sunday mornings each week, it is difficult to teach everything one needs to know about Judaism! We count on you to be our partner and enhance your child's Jewish education by attending services and other events at Temple, checking out Jewish books, participating in Temple's *mitzvah* opportunities, and celebrating *Shabbat* and holidays at your home with family and friends. If you would like more information or some guidance, please let me know. It would be my pleasure to help you!

Although we have over 500 students in our program, we try very hard to make each student and family feel like they are getting personal attention. If you have any questions or concerns anytime throughout the year, please call me at 937-2776 or email me at barbg@timemphis.org.

In addition to me, the three people listed below serve on Temple's Education Team on Sundays and during the week. They are available and happy to help you.

Sophie Samuels, Director of Educational Outreach, sophies@timemphis.org
Sharon Kaplan, Youth Coordinator, mefty@timemphis.org

All of my best wishes for a sweet and happy year!

L'Shalom
Barb Gelb
Director of Education
Temple Israel

Communication

Most communication about religious school will come from me in the form of a weekly e-mail. In addition, teachers will be establishing class websites so you can stay up to date. I will be e-mailing you information about the websites in the coming weeks. The other fantastic source for information about religious school and Temple Israel in general is our website: www.timemphis.org. Please visit it often, and sign up for the “Temple Israel News” email so you always know what is going on!

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress respectfully for Religious School, but we also want them to be comfortable. There will be a school t-shirt that is available for purchase on opening day for \$10. Students can either choose to wear the school t-shirt with jeans, shorts or a skirt; or they can dress in collared shirts, nice pants, skirts or dresses. We will let you know when they will be painting or getting messy so you can send a t-shirt or smock.

Snack

Please send a snack with your student to religious school on Sunday mornings. They will have a short break to enjoy their snack and talk to friends. We suggest a non-messy snack and a water bottle or juice box.

Cell Phones

If your student brings a phone to class, we will be collecting phones at the beginning of class and returning them at the end. Phones have become an increasing distraction each year, and taking them up at the beginning of class will save us from unnecessary interruptions. If you need to reach your student during his/her class, please call me at 937-2776. Even if you leave a message at this number, I will get it immediately. You can also call the front desk at 761-3130.

Behavior

We want the students to enjoy religious school and we hope to foster a love of Judaism, Jewish learning and Temple. We do not tolerate bullying, unkind, or disrespectful behavior. We want all of our students to support each other and behave according to the Jewish value of “That which is hateful unto you, do not do unto your neighbor.” When students are unable or unwilling to act in a respectful and kind manner, teachers will bring it to Barb’s attention and parents will be contacted. We hope you will support our policy and help your child understand these important values.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parents are welcome to visit religious school, and we hope you will also be willing to help us out sometimes. We regularly ask for help with special class projects and celebrations, and we need help with dismissal traffic and the front desk reception area. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer an hour, three hours, or every Sunday. We appreciate any help you can give us!

2011-2012 Special Dates of Note

Consecration:

Friday, December 9, 2011; 6:15 p.m.

This meaningful and fun ceremony marks the formal entry of a child into their Jewish education! It will take place on Friday, December 10th at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary! Tell all your family members and mark your calendars now!

5th Grade *B'nai Mitzvah* Lottery:

Sunday, December 11, 2010; 9:15 a.m.

In order to pick a bnai mitzvah date, parents of 5th graders who are Temple members must attend a mandatory meeting at Temple on December 12, 2010 at 9:15 a.m. If you cannot make this meeting, please call Carol Geller at 931-2771.

6th Grade *B'nai Mitzvah* Shabbaton:

Saturday, January 21, 2012; 9 a.m. - noon.

This event is mandatory for students and parents who have bnai mitzvah dates from October 2011- October 2012 or who are in the 6th grade and plan to become *bnai mitzvah*, and have not yet attended a *Bnai Mitzvah Shabbaton*.

Graduation:

Friday, May 4, 2012.

Services are at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Confirmation:

Friday, May 11, 2012

Services are at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Curriculum Overview

Kindergarten: Jewish Holidays, *Torah* Stories, and Introduction to Hebrew

First through Sixth grades: The Union for Reform Judaism's *Chai* Curriculum

What is the *Chai* Curriculum? The *Chai* Curriculum is based on a teaching contained in the *Talmud* from a section called the *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers). The teaching is that the world "stands" on three things, *Torah*, *Avodah* (prayer and service), and *Gemilut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Enduring understandings are the "big ideas," the concepts that provide the foundation for a lifetime of Jewish learning and living. Below are the enduring understandings for the overall curriculum as well as for each grade level. For more information, visit www.urj.org.

Torah

- *Torah* is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students.
- *Torah* is real in our daily lives; it is with us wherever we are.
- Developing the skills to study *Torah* is essential to integrating *Torah* into our lives.

Level 1: I am part of the ongoing story of *Torah* and the Jewish people

Level 2: Studying *Torah* can teach me important lessons about how God wants me to live.

Level 3: The laws and rules found in the *Torah* can help us to live a life filled with holy moments.

Level 4: With the promise of a holy land (*Eretz Yisrael*), we as a holy people (*Am Yisrael*) have a responsibility to work towards becoming holy by observing the *brit* (covenant).

Level 5: The words and messages of the prophets are at the heart of Reform Judaism.

Level 6: Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continuously revealed to others and to ourselves.

Avodah

Avodah is the work we do to find sacred connections to God, community, and self. Engaging in the work of *avodah* can bring order, beauty, meaning, and insight to our lives.

Level 1: My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.

Level 2: Jewish stories, celebrations, and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God.

Level 3: Through *avodah* we can make our lives and the world more *kadosh* (holy).

Level 4: *Keva* and *kavanah*, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections.

Level 5: The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God.

Level 6: *Avodah* is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal roles in revelation, to find sacred connections to God, community and self.

G'milut Chasadim

We have a responsibility to perform acts of *g'milut chasadim* to make the world a better, holier place.

Level 1: I am a part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

Level 2: We make the world a better place by performing acts of *g'milut chasadim* in our everyday lives.

Level 3: Each individual act of *g'milut chasadim* can make the world more *kadosh* (holy).

Level 4: We have a responsibility to perform acts of *g'milut chasadim* for the people we encounter in our daily lives.

Level 5: We are all part of *K'lal Yisrael* and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community.

Level 6: We can experience God in our world, in others and within ourselves by engaging in acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

The themes of our post bnai mitzvah education program are as follows:

7th Grade: L'Dor VaDor, My past, my present, our future

8th Grade: Jewish Identity

9th Grade: Jewish Responsibility

10th Grade: Jewish Theology - Confirmation

11th and 12th Grades: Jewish Diversity: Exploring the Spectrum of Jewish Experience

Hebrew:

We learn Hebrew starting in Kindergarten with an emphasis on both conversational Hebrew and prayer fluency for competent and comfortable participation in Reform worship services. We also stress understanding of the prayers through vocabulary and Hebrew roots. Students in 4th -6th grades attend Hebrew classes on Wednesdays in addition to Sundays.

Music:

Music is an important part of Jewish life and is a tool for building community, inspiring action and stressing values. Music is offered weekly for grades K-4; and sporadically for grades 5 and 6. The music lessons coordinate with the curriculum and holidays.

Library:

Books are at the heart of Jewish tradition and culture. Kindergarten, first, and second grades have weekly library visits during which they are able to check out books. Other grades visit the library at different times throughout the year.

***Tzedakah* and Social Action:**

Tzedakah, which literally means “justice,” at religious school translates into the coins and dollars our students donate weekly. We learn about worldwide and local needs and at the end of the year help determine where the funds will go. *Tzedakah* is at the core of Judaism and helps in our efforts towards *tikkun olam* repairing the world.

Israel:

We try to foster a love for deepen our connection to the land and people of Israel through the curriculum and special programs.

Cooking:

Food is a big part of our tradition and culture, and each grade will spend at least one week in the kitchen! We hope students will bring home the recipes and share the experience with their families.

Museum:

Temple’s museum is an incredible learning resource, and each class will spend some time there throughout the year.

Special Events and Artists:

We have several guest programs throughout the year that enhance our program. Musicians, artists, and authors will perform and work with our students and add to the richness of their education.

Extracurricular activities:

There will be many opportunities to stay after religious school or come to Temple at another time for cultural, educational, and social activities. Students will have the opportunity to be part of theatrical productions, films, choir groups, and much more throughout the year.

Faculty and Staff and Room Numbers

Religious school teachers include certified teachers as well as dedicated volunteers. They share a love of children and Judaism, and care very much about transmitting our rich history, values and culture to the next generation. In addition, there are many student teachers who are members of our high school and love to help educate the younger students. Listed below are the teachers and student teachers for 2011-2012.

Kindergarten: Laura Albert - ELC room 101

1st Grade: Morgan Cantor and Nancy Kline room 226-227

2nd Grade: Tami Boeve and Larisa Voin - room 210-11

3rd Grade: Alyse Evans, Brenda Curland rooms 216 and 217

4th Grade: Brian Barrach - room 212

4th Grade Hebrew: Varda Schuman - room 213

5th Grade: Peggy Goodman - room 215

5th Grade Hebrew: Jordana Weinberg -room 214

6th Grade: Laura Fenton room 224

6th Grade Hebrew: Tally Karavany room 225

7th Grade: Sophie Samuels and Madrichim Led Chavurot - room 205-206

8th Grade: Clergy Team and Education Staff room 201-202

9th Grade: Clergy Team and Education Staff room 201-202

10th Grade: Rabbi Rabbi Greenstein room 201-202

11th and 12th Grades: Rabbis Rabbi Bauman and Rabbi Grossman; Education Staff

When is Religious School?

- K-6th grades meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. -noon.
- 7th grade meets from 10:30 - noon Sundays *except for those days when they have field trips.*
- 8th grade meets 10:00-11:00 Sundays
- 9th grade meets 11:00-12:00 sundays
- 10th-12th grades meet on Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Calendar for Sunday Mornings 2011-2012

September 11 Opening Day

September 18

September 25

October 2 - join us for Tashlich picnic following religious school

October 9 - no class

October 16

October 23

October 30

November 6

November 13 - no regular class - sign up for Mitzvah DAY!

November 20

November 27 - no class, Thanksgiving

December 4

December 11

December 18, 25, January 1 - Winter Break

January 8

January 15 - no class MLK weekend

January 22

January 29

February 5

February 12

February 19 - no class Presidents' weekend

February 26

March 4 - Purim at Religious School! Kids' Purimspiel

March 11 - no class, Spring Break

March 18

March 25

April 1

April 8 - no class, enjoy Passover!

April 15

April 22

April 29

May 6th - Last Day of Religious School

Additional dates of note:

Consecration: December 9th; 6:15 p.m.

5th grade PARENTS: Bnai mitzvah lottery December 11th at 9:30

Bnai mitzvah class of 2012-13 - PARENTS and STUDENTS: Bnai Mitzvah Shabbaton,
Saturday, January 21st 9:00-noon

Hebrew School Calendar Wednesdays 2011-2012

September 14, 21

No class on September 28th due to Rosh Hashanah

October 5, 12, 19, 26 (the 12th and 19th will take place from 4:30-5:30 for all students followed by dinner)

November 2, 9, 16, 30 (No class on the 23rd due to Thanksgiving break!)

December 7

January 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

March 7, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

May 2 - last day of Hebrew School

9th Grade 11-noon Sundays room 201-202 – My Responsibilities as a Jew

September 11 - Rabbi Greenstein– Responsibility to Choose Life

September 18 –Rabbi Grossman– Responsibility to Keep the Faith

September 25 – Rabbi Greenstein – Responsibility for our Actions

October 2 – Rabbi Greenstein – Responsibility for our Words

October 9 – no class

October 16 – Rabbi Grossman – Responsibility for our relationships – to parents

October 23 – no class at normal time – field trips at 1 and 3

October 30 – no class

November 6 – Barb – Responsibility for our bodies

November 13 – no regular class – sign up for Mitzvah DAY!

November 20 – Barb – Responsibility towards the sick

November 27 – no class, Thanksgiving

December 4 – Rabbi Grossman – Responsibility for our Actions towards our children

December 11 –Cantor kaplan – Responsibility to celebrate the holidays

December 18, 25, January 1 – Winter Break

January 8 – guest artist

January 15 – no class MLK weekend

January 22 – Cantor kaplan- Responsibility to give tzedakah

January 29 – Cantor kaplan – Responsibility for Gemilut Hasadim

February 5 – GUEST – Responsibility towards the environment

February 12 – Rabbi Grossman – responsibility towards drinking and drugs

February 19 – no class Presidents' weekend

February 26 – Barb – Responsibility to take a stand (tie to Purim)

March 4 – Purim at Religious School! Kids' Purimspiel

March 11 – no class, Spring Break

March 18 – Guest – responsibility towards the dead

March 25 – Rabbi bauman – responsibility regarding afterlife and suicide

April 1 – Rabbi bauman – responsibility to celebrate and remember Passover
April 8 – no class, enjoy Passover!
April 15 – Rabbi bauman – social responsibilities
April 22 – Rabbi Grossman – responsibility for myself and my friends
April 29 – Barb/peers – passing on wisdom

8th Grade 10-11 Sundays, room 201-202 – Jewish Identity

September 11 - Barb – The Tribe – and intro/icebreakers
September 18 – Barb – What is identity
September 25 – Cantor kaplan – Identifying through Charitable giving
October 2 – Barb – identifying through Holiday celebration
October 9 – no class
October 16 – Ostracized – special time and place
October 23 FIELD TRIP – special time and place
October 30 – no class
November 6 – Cantor kaplan - Identifying through life cycle events
November 13 – no regular class – sign up for Mitzvah DAY!
November 20 – Rabbi Greenstein – Pre and post holocaust Jewish Identity
November 27 – no class, Thanksgiving
December 4 – Rabbi Greenstein - Jewish Belief in God After the Holocaust
December 11 –Rabbi Grossman – The Chanukah Dilemma
December 18, 25, January 1 – Winter Break
January 8 – guest artist
January 15 – no class MLK weekend
January 22 – Rabbi Grossman - Identifying through the popular culture
January 29 – Rabbi Grossman – Jewish identity becoming part of mainstream culture
February 5 – Rabbi bauman – Israel as part of Jewish identity
February 12 – guest – identifying through care of the world (eco expo)
February 19 – no class Presidents’ weekend
February 26 – Rabbi bauman – the differences and similarities of Israeli and Diaspora Jewish identities (tie into Purim)
March 4 – Purim at Religious School! Kids’ Purimspiel
March 11 – no class, Spring Break
March 18 – Rabbi bauman – Hebrew language as part of Jewish identity
March 25 – Rabbi Grossman – anti-semitism as part of Jewish identity
April 1 – Rabbi Greenstein – Who is a Jew?
April 8 – no class, enjoy Passover!
April 15 – Barb – identifying through our choices
April 22 – Barb – sacred choices
April 29 – Barb sacred choices/wrap up/with 9th grade pairings

Calendar for Confirmation Class 2011-2012

Sept. 11 Opening Day
Sept. 18 Class 4:30-6:00
Sept 25 Class 4:30-6:00
Oct. 2 Class 4:30-6:00
Oct 9 Class 4:30-6:00

Oct 23 Class 4:30-6:00
Oct 27-30 New York Trip - no class
Nov. 6th special class from 3-5:00 p.m. at Central library
Nov. 13 mitzvah project as a class
Nov. 18-20 Fall Conclave - no class
Dec. 4 Class 4:30-6:00
Dec. 11 Class 4:30-6:00
Jan. 8 Class 4:30-6:00
Jan 22 Class 4:30-6:00
Jan. 29 Class 4:30-6:00
Feb. 5 Class Brunch at special time
Feb. 12 Class 4:30-6:00
Feb. 26 Class 4:30-6:00
March 4 Purim carnival - no class
March 18 Class 4:30-6:00
March 25 Class 4:30-6:00
April 1 Class 4:30-6:00
April 15 Class 4:30-6:00
April 22 Class 4:30-6:00
April 29 Class 4:30-6:00
May 6 Class 4:30-6:00
Confirmation: May 11, 2012

Calendar for Juniors and Seniors 2011-2012

Sept. 11 Opening Day with Rabbi Rabbi Grossman and Rabbi Rabbi bauman
Sept. 18 Class 4:30-6:00 - elective Alef: Israel Rap and Jewish Cooking
Sept 25 Class 4:30-6:00 - elective Alef: Israel Rap and Jewish Cooking
Oct. 2 Class 4:30-6:00 - elective Alef: Israel Rap and Jewish Cooking
Oct 9 Class 4:30-6:00 - “Extreme Makeover, Sukkot Edition”
Oct 23 Class 4:30-6:00 - “Give Bigotry No Sanction, Persecution No Assistance”
Oct 30 class 4:30-6:00 -- special session with RABBI RABBI GREENSTEIN GREENSTEIN
Nov. 6th - special time and place - field trip 1-3 p.m.
Nov. 13 mitzvah project as a class
11th grade - Exceptional Foundation; 12th grade First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen
Nov. 18-20 Fall Conclave - no class
Dec. 4 Class 4:30-6:00 - “Jews and Toons”
Dec. 11 Class 4:30-6:00 - “Jews and Toons”
Jan. 8 Class 4:30-6:00 -Paper Midrash Experience
Jan 22 Class 4:30-6:00 - elective Bet: Jewish Business Ethics/Leadership and Jewish Art
Jan. 29 Class 4:30-6:00 elective Bet: Jewish Business Ethics/Leadership and Jewish Art
Feb. 5 Class Brunch at special time at the Rabbi’s homes
Feb. 12 Class 4:30-6:00 elective Bet: Jewish Business Ethics/Leadership and Jewish Art
Feb. 26 Class 4:30-6:00 Focus on PURIM
March 4 Purim carnival - no class
March 18 Class 4:30-6:00 -- “Gender Bender”
March 25 Class 4:30-6:00 - “Gender Bende”
April 1 Class 4:30-6:00 - Elective Gimel: Wellness and Jewish Heroes
April 15 Class 4:30-6:00 Elective Gimel: Wellness and Jewish Heroes
April 22 Class 4:30-6:00 Elective Gimel: Wellness and Jewish Heroes
April 29 Class 4:30-6:00 Final Class taught by Rabbi Rabbi Grossman and Rabbi Rabbi bauman

Graduation: May 4, 2012

Mitzvah Day Projects

K-3rd - Sack lunches for homeless, MIFA Meals package holiday candy treats;
Pack cookies/write letters/deliver to fire and police stations

4th w/Cub Scouts - Shelby Farms - litter patrol

5th - Clean Memphis Overton Park - clear trails

6th* - Books from Birth at First Baptist Broad - read books/crafts with children

7th* - Blanket the City - tie fleece blankets

(Martin Luther King Monday deliver blankets to homeless at St. Mary's
Catholic Church)

8th - Mid-South Food Bank

9th & 12th - First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen

10th* - Le Bonheur - visit playrooms/moms staff coffee cart

11th* - Exceptional Foundation - create games & craft projects for special needs
children &