



Torah School and Family Programs



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Dear Temple Beth Torah Families,

We want to welcome you to our TBT Torah School and family programs! TBT offers a broad set of programs for youth and families that serves ages from toddlers to high schoolers. We regard Jewish education as a sacred duty, and we are proud of our offerings aimed at training the next generation in Judaism and preparing our young people for b'nai mitzvot.

OUR KEY PROGRAMS:

- **Mishpacha (Family)**, ages 2-4 (young ones and caretakers). Our Mishpacha program offers a warm, welcoming, and fun way for families with very young children to experience their first taste of Jewish education and fellowship at TBT.
- **Kehilla (Community)**, grades TK-6. Our Kehilla program provides an integrated introduction to Jewish values, Hebrew, and Jewish history and culture – mixed with singing, fun, games, and togetherness.
- **Beyachad (Together)**, grades 7-10. Our Beyached program aims to provide engaging and immersive sessions in Jewish thought, history, and culture as well as offer a warm and supportive social environment to allow our teens to form lasting Jewish connections.

Our Torah School provides a warm, loving, and inclusive environment, and we welcome all Jewish learners to come and grow with us!

Program Registration: To register for any of our Torah School programs, please contact our Torah School and Family Programs Coordinator Daniel Stoyanoff at danielle@templebethtorah.com or 805-647-4181.

*The day you were born is the day God decided that
the world could not exist without you.*
~ Rabbi Nachman of Breslov





Purpose and Mission

Our goal is to provide a loving and stimulating environment that facilitates growth and a sense of belonging for our Jewish students

Key Objectives

Making Mensches

Provide a path that enables our young people to grow spiritual, intellectually, and personally - in short, to become mensches

Jewish Literacy

Offer inspired and engaging instruction that fosters development of a working knowledge of Jewish texts (especially Torah), ideas, values, holidays, history, and culture

Jewish Identity

Facilitate development by each of our students of a strong sense of Jewish identity that will stay with them long after they have graduated from our school

Community

Create and maintain an environment that fosters connections and a sense of belonging among our students and helps them to develop a sense of connectedness both to Jewish tradition and their classmates in a way that feels like home.

*For Jews, education is not just what we know.
It is who we are.*

~Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

TBT Torah School Curriculum at a Glance

Mishpacha (Family)

- Ages 2-4 (plus caretakers)
- Family-centric
- Jewish socialization
- Age-appropriate exposure to Jewish holidays, stories, singing, initial introduction to Hebrew letters
- Fun – a very hands-on approach to learning

Kehilla (Community)

Grades TK-6

TK-K

- Introduction of Torah as guide to being a good person
- Basic concept of Jewish identity – emphasis upon actions
- Hebrew letter recognition
- Jewish holidays and key Bible stories
- Fun – singing, making art, engaging projects

GRADES 1-2

- Hebrew letter recognition, first vowels, simple decoding
- Jewish holidays – meaning and observation
- Synagogue – objects and beginning participation in services
- Introduction to ancient Israel as birthplace of Judaism

GRADES 3-4

- Increasing focus on Hebrew instruction – decoding and basic prayers (Shema, Bar'chu)
- Formal instruction in Hebrew decoding begins – instruction on Sundays and Wednesdays
- Integrated learning of Judaica, Hebrew, and Tefillah
- Deepening exploration of Bible stories to focus on moral and ethical lessons

GRADES 5-6

- Hebrew instruction intensifies as students move from decoding to reading of words and prayer
- Mastery of prayers as students prepare for bar and bat mitzvah
- Reading of Hebrew and knowledge of prayers enables students to participate fully in Jewish prayer services
- Study of biblical stories deepens – focus on relevance to contemporary events
- Introduction to Hebrew prophets and Jewish commitment to social justice

Beyachad (Together)

GRADE 7

- For 7th grade students preparing for bar or bat mitzvah; special sessions led by Rabbi Lisa as part of b'nai mitzvah havurah
- Focus on deeper spiritual meaning associated with Jewish journey leading toward bar or bat mitzvah

GRADES 7-10, combined

- Joint session on Wednesdays early evenings
- Jewish values and community
- Jewish history and culture (art, literature, film, sports)
- Philosophical and social issues – debate and immersive projects
- Social justice, tikkun olam

Hebrew Language Learning

Our Philosophy

We start instruction in recognition of Hebrew letters in the early grades TK-2, but focus on teaching reading and decoding in grades 3-6. Our primary focus is teaching reading of prayer book Hebrew to prepare students for b'nai mitzvah, but we also introduce everyday Hebrew vocabulary.

While we stress the mechanics of reading and decoding Hebrew prayers, we also work with the students on the meaning of the words and main prayers of the Shabbat morning service.

Our Methodology

We use a small-group instruction method so that we can teach effectively students of similar skill levels. These small groups allow for collaborative “chavruta-style” instruction between both students and teachers.

Our Instruction Options

In-class learning

Wednesdays, 4:00 -6:00 pm, grades 3-6

Sundays, 9:15-11:30 am, grades 3-6

Individual Zoom-based tutoring

Mondays, Thursday, Friday – per individual schedules, grades 5-6

Group learning

Weekly Tefillah services – prayer-focused

Wednesdays, Sundays, grades TK-6

The Hebrew language will go from the synagogue to the house of study and from the house of study, it will come into the home and become a living language.

~ Eliezer Ben Jehuda



Torah School Weekly Schedule

Sundays

- Mishpacha (ages 2-4) – every other Sunday, 9:15 – 11:00 am
- Kehilla (grades TK-6) – every Sunday, 9:15- 11:45 am

Wednesdays

- Kehilla (grades 3-6), 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Beyached (grades 7-10), 6:00 -7:30 pm



The Jewish tradition of learning – is learning. Adam and Eve chose knowledge instead of immortality.

~ Elie Wiesel



Temple Beth Torah Jewish and Family Education

Mishpacha (Family)

Family-oriented introduction to Jewish friends, songs, and play

Families with children under 4

Kehilla (Community)

Engaged Jewish learning aimed at developing both Jewish identity and literacy with a strong sense of Jewish community, grades 3-6

Beyached (Together)

Jewish learning, community, and connections for our teens, grades 7-10

Hebrew

Small classes and individualized Zoom instruction – reaching students at all levels, grades 3-6

Family/Youth Programs

Torah School family events

Jr VCTY

Madrichim Program – teens

L'Taken Social Justice Seminar - teens



Before his death, Rabbi Zusya said, "in the coming world they will not ask me: "Why were you not Moses?" They will ask me: Why were you not Zusya?"
~ Martin Buber



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