

Lee and Frank Goldberg Family
Religious School Parent Handbook

BETH ISRAEL



*“You shall teach them faithfully to your children”
Deuteronomy 6:7*

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Page 1 – Letter of welcome from the Religious School Education Team
School Days & Times

Page 2 - Mission Statement, Vision Statement & Promises, Calendar

Page 3 - Communication, Parent Association
Guidelines and Policies – Attendance, Cell phones, Lost & Found, School Visitors

Page 4 - Progress reports, Special Needs, Early Pick Up, Tzedakah, Standards of Conduct

Page 5 - Standards of Conduct cont'd, Bullying Policy

Page 6 - Food, Medication/Allergies, Parent Feedback, T'filot/Music, Homework & Tests,
Scholarships

Page 7 - Religious School Attendance for students attending Jewish Day Schools
Traffic & Safety, Music & Curricular Guidelines

Page 8 - General Overview



WELCOME!
FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EDUCATION TEAM

Dear Religious School Parents,

We are very happy to welcome you to the Lee and Frank Goldberg Family Religious School.

Life in our school is rooted in creating positive, vibrant experiences. We are building an inclusive community using the lens of Jewish education to teach core Jewish values and customs, nurturing Jewish identity, and create a connection to Israel and a commitment to Judaism. Camp weekends and life-changing travel, empowering leadership opportunities, and meaningful family education are just some of the ways we engage our students in relevant experiential learning.

Our hope is to strengthen the fabric of our Jewish community by amplifying each student's Jewish identity and connections to the world around them.

L'shalom,

The Religious School Team

SCHOOL DAYS AND TIMES

Kindergarten - 2nd Grades

Sundays 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

3rd - 6th Grades

Sundays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m AND Wednesdays 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

OR

Sundays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m AND Thursdays 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

7th Grade

Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

8th - 12th Grades

Tuesdays 5:45 - 8:00 p.m., dinner begins at 5:45 p.m.

THE MISSION OF BETH ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

We strive to engage our students in meaningful experiential learning that is relevant to their lives. We teach to our students' emotional, spiritual and intellectual capacities. Our curriculum teaches core Jewish values and competencies, and we nurture Jewish identity, a sense of belonging to the Jewish people, a connection to Israel, and a commitment to Judaism.

Vision Statement:

Rooted in Jewish values, relationships are the core of our practice and the building blocks of our school. Educators partner with the whole family to encourage children on their journey to becoming lifelong learners.

Pirke Avot: "Let the honor of your student be as dear to you as your own;.." Rabbi Elazar ben Shamua

Traits of a teacher: Imbued with the spirit and values of Torah & the Jewish tradition; do they model the values they are teaching? Understand the gravity of the task?

Promises:

- Provide a safe place where students are:
 1. Valued and respected as individuals
 2. Nurtured and stimulated to explore Judaism
 3. Supported in our school community and encouraged to form connections and build friendships
- We honor parents through open communication and as partners in teaching Jewish values
- We are committed to providing a second home environment in which families feel welcome and have opportunities to form connections and relationships

Our Beth Israel Religious School Teachers will:

- Teach with sincerity and authenticity
- Provide meaningful learning experiences
- Honor every student with deeds and with words
- Greet every student with a warm smile
- Show students respect – *derekh erez* (the right path)
- Strive to understand each child and encourage use of their individual traits
- Care for each student
- Teach from the heart

CALENDAR

The Religious School Pre K-6th, 7th grade, and High School Current Year Calendar notes school days. It is posted for your convenience at <http://cbisd.org/youth/religiousschool/calendar-hours/>; hard copies can also be obtained in the religious school office. We will be sending out a list of events that are specific to your grade, as well as dates that involve the whole school. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, the calendar is changed. We will notify you via email, but encourage you to check the website as well.

COMMUNICATION

Please contact the School Office at 858-900-2551 or religiousschool@cbisd.org if you have any administrative matters. Most school communication is done via e-mail. We use both direct e-mail messages and an e-broadcast service called Constant Contact. To ensure seamless communication make sure that we have your current e-mail address or addresses. If you change your email address, please notify the office. Please note that if you opt out of Beth Israel's general synagogue mailing list via Constant Contact, this will also interrupt your receipt of school notices sent this way. We cannot reach you if you unsubscribe. Teachers' e-mail addresses are listed on our website: www.cbisd.org. Check the Beth Israel Web site and the weekly Temple e-newsletter for any other changes or additions to the school calendar.

PARENT CONNECTION

Parent Connection supports the Religious School by providing parent volunteers to help facilitate programs or events, and support our teachers. Parent Connection helps build community within each grade by bringing together parents to help achieve the goals of the Religious School and Youth Programs. We encourage you to get involved!

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: (75% attendance is our minimum expectation.)

Attendance is very important for achieving our school's goals. Since time is precious and there is so much to teach, it is imperative that students attend Religious School regularly. Frequent absences create difficulties in keeping up with the class and may be discouraging for the child. Excessive absences tend to lower the status of the Religious School in the eyes of the child and negate our efforts. They may also jeopardize the child's eligibility to become a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*. It is, therefore, the child's responsibility to make up any missed class work.

Please notify the school at 858-900-2551 or religiousschool@cbisd.org if your child is ill, on vacation, or is otherwise unable to attend class. The school will send a notice to parents after two consecutive absences.

More frequent absences may result in a conference between the teacher, education staff, and the parents to determine the next course of action, which may include a transfer to a different class/teacher. Please help students be on time. It is respectful and important for learning, making friends and feeling a part of our community.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONICS

The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not allowed during school hours. If a student is using their cell phone during school, it will be collected and returned after dismissal.

LOST AND FOUND

Check the Religious School office for items lost at school. Labeling books and clothes is always helpful.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Adults should feel free to visit the Religious School classrooms and programs with permission from the Director of Religious School Education. Please contact the office in advance so we can confirm with the teachers and make them aware that you will be attending class.

Children who are not enrolled in our Religious School may attend only in pressing circumstances with the advance consent of an administrative staff member, and with THEIR parent's written permission.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Hebrew Progress Reports will be sent home for grades 3 - 6 twice a year.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If your child has any special needs, including dietary restrictions, learning challenges, or emotional or psychological concerns, it is important that you tell our school administration so that the teacher may be informed and your child will get appropriate care and attention. Only those who need to know about your child's special needs will be in the circle of information. If your child has an IEP, please provide a copy to the Educational Programming Director.

Beth Israel is committed to the education of every child in our community. Grade-level classes, pullout Hebrew classes, private tutors, 1:1 assistants, and a Resource Room led by a certificated Special Education teacher are all available to meet the needs of our learners in the most appropriate setting possible.

EARLY PICK-UP

Our first priority is the safety of the children. Students may not leave the synagogue grounds unless accompanied by an adult. For an early pickup, go to the School Office to sign out your child. This is a precaution to ensure your child's safety and the safety of all children on our campus. Please let us know ahead of time so we can inform the teacher who will send your child to the office at the designated time. Please do not take your child directly from their classroom.

TZEDAKAH (the giving of charity)

Our tradition teaches that giving to others who are less fortunate is a *mitzvah* (a commandment). Please help your children to make *tzedakah* a habit by reminding them to set aside some of their money each week. Students will have an opportunity to direct their class *tzedakah* (collected on Sundays and Tuesdays) by discussing different options.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Our goal at Beth Israel is to provide a safe educational climate in which each child will discover and cultivate a meaningful Jewish identity within a loving community. Standards of behavior are required of each student in this school in order to develop a culture of respect for peers, teachers and the school. In order to meet these goals, we feel it is important for each student to be accountable and responsible for their own behavior.

PARENTS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE:

- Make every effort to prepare children for school by assisting them in bringing required books and materials for each class session.

- Get children to class on time and keep absences to a minimum and only for reasons of illness or extreme necessity.
- Set good examples for their children by maintaining a positive attitude toward school, teachers and school attendance.
- Strive, as a family unit, to attend services and all family education and grade levels events, encourage appropriate behavior by example, and actively enforce this behavior throughout the programs and services.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be fully present and participate in all school activities.
- Be courteous and respectful to classmates and teachers.
- Respect school property and the property of others.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Come prepared by bringing all necessary books, paper, pencils, etc., to each class session.
- Conduct themselves quietly and respectfully in the classroom and sanctuary.
- Refrain from rough playing, and be especially careful not to play in any way that might injure another child.
- Play only in designated areas.
- Dress appropriately. If it is determined an outfit is inappropriate, parents will be notified and the student may be given alternative clothing.
- Keep all electronics devices out of commission during school.

In the event that these standards are not met the following steps will be taken by the school:

Teachers will remind students of proper school behavior and will use positive reinforcement in the classroom. Students who are continually disruptive will visit the Religious School Director. If a student requires a second visit to Director, the teacher or Director will call the student's parent. Appropriate action or a behavior contract may be used at this time as determined by the parent, teacher, and Director.

If a student requires a third visit to Director, parent(s) will be asked to join the student and Director in a meeting to discuss behavior, and problem solving will be done at this time. If these steps do not remedy the disruptive behavior, a parent will be required to attend classes with the student. If re-entry is completed and the negative behavior continues the student will be permanently withdrawn for that school year. School fees are not refundable for students who are withdrawn from classes. In the case of property damage the child will be assessed the full cost of the damage. If that cannot be determined, a mitzvah project will be assigned.

It is understood that this policy is based on recognition of individual differences among students. With a concerted effort on the part of parent(s), teacher(s), student and Director of Religious School Education, early attention should produce improvement in behavior at an early stage. It is also understood that severe infractions may result in some of the above steps being by-passed.

BULLYING POLICY

Bullying behavior by any student is unacceptable. Beth Israel will not tolerate bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation toward anyone reporting bullying of any kind.

Definition: Bullying is a type of aggression in which the behavior is intended to harm, humiliate, or disturb another person. There is an imbalance of power with a more powerful person or group attacking a less powerful person or group. Bullying can be written, verbal, electronic, physical, or any combination thereof.

Reporting: Staff members, students, and parents must immediately report bullying or retaliatory conduct to the Director of Religious School Education.

Investigation and Response: Any type of suspected bullying will trigger an immediate investigation in which the target, the aggressor/s, and witnesses will be interviewed. An action plan will be initiated, parents notified, and an incident report filed.

Consequences of Bullying: The school will take any disciplinary action deemed appropriate, including potential involvement of local law enforcement. If it is deemed necessary to involve local law enforcement, then all information regarding the bullying incident will be shared with the San Diego Police Department.

FOOD & CLASSROOM TREATS

Beth Israel practices biblical kashrut (the avoidance of all pork, shellfish and the mixing of dairy with meat products). We are also a **nut-free environment**.

Meals should be eaten before or after class. Please do not send an entire meal with your child to class. It is difficult to participate and focus in class while eating.

Small snacks will be sold by the Youth Group on Wednesdays/Thursdays, and Sundays, will be provided by parents on a rotating basis (PreK – 2nd grade), or may be brought from home, but are to be consumed only during break. There are designated times during school for each grade to enjoy a snack.

We have eliminated the use of food and candy rewards in the classroom.

MEDICATION/ALLERGIES

Please list medications your child is taking on the school registration form. We will not administer any medications (including aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen) unless we receive written permission from a parent. If a child needs to take a prescription drug during class, please send it with a note to the office.

PARENT FEEDBACK

We'd love to hear if you are particularly pleased with how something is going, as well as if you have a problem or suggestion for improvement. Please e-mail us, call, or stop by the school office.

At no time is a teacher to leave their students to have a conversation with a parent. Your children are their primary responsibility while they are at Beth Israel. If you wish to speak with a teacher, it must be outside of school hours. If you wish to discuss something of a serious nature, please do so with the Director of Religious School Education.

T'FILAH/MUSIC

T'filah (prayer) and Hebrew music are an integral part of our Hebrew school program. In addition to providing an opportunity for our students to put what they are learning into context, school worship services provide a forum for teaching sanctuary citizenship, *bimah* etiquette and public speaking. Participation is very important and expected.

HOMEWORK AND TESTS

Hebrew homework is required for some grades. In order to make progress with reading skills, students are asked to read every day for a few minutes. Teachers will do their best to create homework that is meaningful and enriching; our intention is that it will support your child's Hebrew skill development.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The education of our children is an important goal of ours, whether it is Religious school or informal educational experiences such as summer camp. It is our aspiration to provide financial assistance, when possible, to deserving students who wish to participate in these opportunities. Please contact the membership director, Bethany Eisenberg (beisenberg@cbisd.org) if you need financial assistance. For students to be eligible to attend Beth Israel Religious School families must be synagogue members in good standing.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR BETH ISRAEL STUDENTS ATTENDING DAY SCHOOLS

Due to the extensive Hebrew studies required by Jewish Day Schools, Beth Israel does not require day school students to attend supplemental religious school in order to become *b'nai mitzvah*. They are however, expected to participate fully in all requirements of the *b'nai mitzvah* program including:

- Service attendance, mitzvah projects, clergy meetings and tutoring sessions
- Full participation in the youth program events
- Attendance at their grade-level camp weekends
- Attendance at all school-wide and grade level family education programs

Please provide your contact information to the Religious School office so that we can send you relevant information.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

DROP-OFF AND PICKUP:

To ensure the safety of our children, please follow all standard parking regulations (e.g., No parking in red zone, no double parking, etc.). Note that the south side of Golden Haven Road is now a bike lane and no parking is permitted at any time.

SUNDAYS, PREK – 2ND GRADE:

All students need to be picked up by an adult from their classrooms. Parents may park in either the lower parking lot or the upper parking structure. Please inform us in writing if an older sibling will be picking up your PreK – 2nd grade child.

SUNDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 3RD-6TH GRADES:

Option 1:

Pick up at the grand staircase. Use our lower lot and get in the pick-up line. Pick up line is one lane only; do not create two lanes of pick up traffic.

Option 2:

Enter the La Jolla Gateway office building parking structure from our lot, drive up to the top level and park. (On Sundays you may enter the parking structure from either 9171 Towne Centre Drive, or from our lot.) Meet your child(ren) at the North Entry gate to our property. Follow arrows to visitor exit located between the two office buildings.

TUESDAYS, 7TH – 12TH GRADES:

All drop-off and pickup is from our lower parking lot by the grand staircase.

PARKING VALIDATION

Please use the validating machines located around the campus to avoid fees in the parking structure.

CURRICULUM

The detailed Religious School curriculum is available in the Religious School office upon request and is posted on the Beth Israel website at www.cbisd.org.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND TEEN OFFERINGS

FAMILY EDUCATION FOR KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

Individual grade level curriculum guides can be found on the website.

4TH - 7TH GRADE CAMP WEEKENDS

A vital part of every 4th-7th grader's Jewish education is a weekend away at camp in celebration of Shabbat which strengthens their Jewish identity and their bond with teachers and peers. Our Madrichim (see Madrichim section below) continue to attend camp weekends as counselors, team leaders, and role models for continuing Jewish learners. Each weekend is planned with an exciting theme and led by Helene "Eemah" Schlafman, Director of Education Emerita and our team of professional educators to ensure an amazing experience and wonderful religious school memories for our students. These camp weekends have a profound effect on our children and are prepaid in your tuition; a separate transportation fee is required.

7TH GRADE

This is an exciting year for our students. As they prepare to take their place as part of the adult community of Beth Israel by becoming a bar/bat mitzvah, they also move into more adult study sessions. They continue their study of t'filah (Hebrew prayer) and reinforce their connection to K'lal Yisrael (the Jewish Community). Community building with teachers, clergy and other students is a primary goal for this age group as we strive to engage our students in a lifetime of Jewish connection through discussions on topics relevant to their age and stage of life. These sessions are facilitated by adolescent professionals, clergy, teachers, and youth advisors.

8TH GRADE

Our 8th graders move into a new arena as they become part of the high school program at Beth Israel. School begins with dinner and social time at 5:45 on Tuesday nights. Dinner is followed by two hours of class instruction, which includes the study of the Holocaust and Comparative Religion. Students have the opportunity to participate in the award-winning Madrichim-In-Training Program.

9TH - 12TH GRADES - HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Beth Israel's high school program continues to be vibrant and a wonderful source of social connection for our teens. Students take a core class (first hour) and choose from a variety of elective classes that change each year. Each year, a specialized travel opportunity is offered.

MADRICHIM PROGRAM

Students become teenage leaders and role models, learning to be co-teachers, tutors, and camp junior counselors through the High School's Madrichim Program. In the process, teens learn valuable life skills which will help them be more effective leaders or participants in any group. After completion of the Madrichim-In-Training class, students are eligible to become assistant teachers in the religious school classrooms for Pre-K through 6th grades.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your input and feedback. Feel free to be in touch with us at any time.