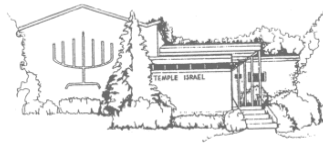

***Temple Israel of Natick
Ida and Charles Gilvarg Religious School***



**Parent/Student Handbook
2016-2017**

MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Israel of Natick inspires an enthusiasm and love for Judaism. Jewish learning at Temple Israel is limitless, ageless, and stretches beyond our classroom walls. We recognize and appreciate that each member has a unique Jewish educational journey. Our clergy, educators, lay leaders, and members form a community of learners who accompany each other on paths of lifelong learning.

The Religious School is committed to educating children in an eight-year curriculum that includes the study of Torah, the Siddur, the meaning of prayer, Jewish customs and ceremonies, mitzvot, history, Jewish values and the development of a Jewish identity.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Grades K & 1	Sunday	9:00 – 12:00
Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Sunday	9:00 – 12:00
	Tuesday	4:00 – 6:00
	<u>or</u> Wednesday	4:00 – 6:00
Grade 7	Sunday	9:00 – 12:00
	Tuesday	4:00 – 6:00

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Gan, Aleph (Kindergarten, Grade 1):

- Hebrew letter and vowel recognition
- Basic prayers and blessings
- Holidays and mitzvot
- Lessons from the Torah
- Mitzvah projects

Hey, Vuv (Grades 5 and 6):

- Hebrew reading and comprehension
- Friday night and Shabbat morning rituals and prayers
- Weekly Torah Portion
- Torah Cantillation: Trope
- Jewish holidays and family life
- A comprehensive study of the State of Israel
- Holocaust studies

Gesher (Grade 7):

- Weekday morning prayer service
- Tanach: Beyond the Five Books of Moses
- Jewish Community Values: Mitzvot and ethics
- Active engagement by the students in a variety of Jewish experiences via the 13 Mitzvot
- Social action

PARENT INVOLVEMENT/PROGRAMMING

We encourage parents to be involved in their children's education. Parents and faculty must work as partners in transmitting our tradition and its values to our children.

During the course of the year, there will be opportunities for parents to participate in special activities and Family Education Programs. We invite and encourage your involvement.

From time to time, we may also solicit volunteers to help with programs. Parent volunteers enhance the religious school experience and send a clear message that this learning is important to the whole family. Additionally, the religious school has a newly formed parent association, which is a great way to be involved and get to know fellow parents. The parent association meets several times each year on Sunday mornings and supports classroom activities, arranges social outings, and builds community.

SAMPLING OF TI OF NATICK'S FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- Kabbalat Torah (Grade K)
- Mezuzzah Project (Grade K)
- Shabbat/Challah Program (Grade K)
- Shema Program (Grade 1)
- Kabbalat Siddur/Consecration (Grade 2)
- Wimpel Workshop (Grade 2)
- Lulav Program (Grades 2)
- Havdalah (Grade 3)
- Israeli Travelogue (Grade 3)
- Hanukkah Art Program (Grades 3 & 4)
- Kiddush Program (Grades 3 & 4)
- Shabbat & Sacred Time (Grade 4)
- Passover Project (Grades 4 & 5)
- Lecha Dodi, Come Sing with Me (Grade 5)
- World Wide Wrap Program (Grade 5 & 6)
- ADL Education Program (Grades 6)
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program (Grade 6)
- Pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program (Grades 6 & 7)
- Yad Project (Grades 6 & 7)
- Siyyum (Grade 7)
- Megillah Reading and Purim Carnival (All)
- Sukkah Neighborhood Walks (All)
- Tu Bishvat Celebration (All)

HOMEWORK

The homework varies over the course of the year and as it connects to larger curricular goals in a given classroom. In addition to in-class discussions with students, teachers will include homework assignments as part of their weekly communication to parents.

Students in Grades 2-6 are expected to practice Hebrew reading several nights a week. A homework chart will be distributed by each teacher.

SHABBAT SERVICES

A part of the curriculum includes a Shabbat Youth Service. The Shabbat Services are a wonderful way to experience the Shabbat morning prayers in an environment that offers many more opportunities for participation than with our traditional service.

Temple Israel of Natick strongly encourages the involvement of all family members to join in Shabbat Services.

Another aim of our school is to help students learn to pray with understanding and to feel comfortable in a Conservative Jewish service. To this end, our Shabbat Services are an integral part of our education program.

Our 3 youth services are: Tot Shabbat, for preschoolers and their families;
Mini-Minyan, for children in grades K-2; and
Junior Congregation, for children in grades 3-6.

These services are generally held twice monthly and provide different educational experiences which include games and enhance learning. All services begin at 10:30am and end at 12:00pm. Additionally, there are family services held on other Shabbat mornings for families and their children in grades 3-6.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- All students at the Ida & Charles Gilvarg Religious School are entitled to receive an education in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Based on the principles of *kavod* (honor, respect) and *derekh erez* (good manners), students are expected to respect the rights and property of others. Teachers will employ the best classroom management techniques for maintaining appropriate classroom discipline.
- The use of cell phones, tablets and texting devices are not allowed in the classrooms without the teacher's permission. At the discretion of the teacher, offending items will be turned in to the religious school office until the end of the school day.

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PLAN

- We have a clear protocol for following up on complaints about bullying and misconduct, with the Director and teacher involved. We expect that all members of our school community will treat each other with respect and kindness in accordance with our code of *derekh erez*. This Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is published in accordance with the Massachusetts law (St. 2010 c. 92) against bullying and is an integral part of our efforts to promote learning and to prevent behavior that impedes the learning process. Our plan spells out a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying, cyber-bullying and retaliation.
- It is important that this plan be well understood by all members of the community. The principal is responsible for the implementation and administration of the plan. Questions and concerns related to this plan may be referred to the principal.

POLICY AGAINST BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING AND RETALIATION

- Our school will not tolerate any form of bullying or cyber-bullying, nor will we tolerate retaliation against any person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.
- Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited on school grounds and at all school-sponsored events, activities, functions and programs. Bullying and cyber-bullying are also prohibited through the use of technology.
- In addition, bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for a targeted student; infringes on the rights of a targeted student at school; or materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

DISMISSAL

- Drivers of students in grades K & 1 are asked to come into the classroom for pick up.
- Drivers of students in grades 2 – 7 are expected to meet their student(s) in the lobby for pick up.
- Drivers are expected to adhere to the one-way signs and exit to the left of the building (Social Hall side) when picking up students at the back entrance.
- Drivers are expected to obey the posted speed limit and to watch for children crossing.
- No parking or standing is allowed in the fire lanes.

EARLY PICK-UP

- In order to avoid class disruptions, parent/guardians are asked to please come to the school office to request their child's early release from class. The office personnel will go to the classroom to retrieve the child from class.

SNACKS

All students are responsible for bringing their own kosher, dairy or pareve snacks for break time. Items containing peanuts or residue of other nuts, including peanut and other nut butters, are not allowed. For the safety of all students, snacks may not be shared. If parents want to provide a snack for the entire class, it must be approved by the classroom teacher or the education director.

GENERAL WELLNESS POLICY

- 1.) If a child comes to us with a minor cut, we will have him/her wash the cut with soap and water and provide a band-aid. In the case of a minor bruise, we will provide an ice pack. When the child is ready, we will have the child return to class.
- 2.) If a child is not feeling well (or has non-specific symptoms), we will have the child sit in the office for a short time and then inquire if he/she thinks he/she can go back to class. If the child does not feel he/she can return to class, we will call the child's parent/guardian. If he/she does go back to class and then returns a second time, we will call the child's parent/guardian.
- 3.) If a child becomes NOTICEABLY ill, we will call the child's parent to pick him/her up.
- 4.) If a child has a SERIOUS INJURY, or becomes SERIOUSLY ILL, we will call **911** and then we will call the child's parent.

MEDICATIONS

- Ida & Charles Gilvarg Religious School will not store or dispense medications of any kind to students except EpiPen.
- Please note that the Ida & Charles Gilvarg Religious School is nut aware.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Use of Email: In an effort to provide timely correspondence with families, the religious school communicates almost exclusively via email. Please check your email regularly for communication directed to your child's grade and provide us with any changes to email addresses.

Teachers will provide weekly updates on class activities. This information will be emailed and/or posted on our blog.

Parent Contact: Please feel free to contact your child's teacher directly. Education Director Robin Kahn is also available by phone : (508) 650-3521 or email: Robin.Kahn.TIN@gmail.com.

Conferences: Parent-teacher conferences are always available at your request.

EMERGENCY / INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

- The religious school follows the Town of Natick School Schedule. When Natick schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Ida & Charles Gilvarg Religious School is also closed.
- Storm Center Announcements may be found on WBZ/CBS Boston (boston.cbslocal.com). An email will also be sent.