

EDUCATION AT TBESOC

Jewish learning is an exciting endeavor that continues throughout our lives. At TBESOC, our mission is to educate both children and adults in the beliefs and practices of Judaism so that they will feel passion and pride in being Jewish. As such, we promote an educational climate in which each individual can discover and cultivate their own strong and lasting Jewish identity. Temple Beth El's Aron and Sala Samueli Religious School fits into the larger array of lifelong educational learning programs we offer, and is comprised of two programs:

- **One day per week program for students in pre-school through 2nd grade**
All *Shabbat Chai* Friday afternoons
- **Two days per week program for students in 3rd grade through 7th grade**
Both *Shabbat Chai* Friday afternoons AND Hebrew Monday afternoons

GRADE LEVEL CURRICULUM

In 2018, an Education Task Force identified six goals for students participating in our program:

- Learn fundamental Shabbat and Hebrew prayers, the foundation of our Jewish practice.
- Have extensive experience practicing our holidays and rituals and know the reasons why we practice, so that they can engage in living an authentic Jewish life.
- Recognize and own their membership in the Temple Beth El Community so that they develop a deep and enduring connectedness to their Judaism, other Jews, and the Jewish community at large.
- Possess the tools to explain, advocate for, and defend their Judaism, with a solid foundation of Torah, so that they know their own story and can feel pride about being Jewish.
- Infuse holiness, *kedusha*, into their lives by learning respect and appreciation for temple and services, and by engaging in *mitzvot*, Jewish acts.
- Develop a desire to do Tikkun Olam through understanding our Jewish obligation to make our world a better place.

To accomplish those goals, our curriculum is designed to intentionally meet these expressed desires of our community, while ensuring that every student has the opportunity to feel connected, knowledgeable, and proud of their Jewish identity. The curriculum follows this thematic structure:

Grades	Theme
Pre School-2 nd Grades	<i>"Building Community and the Building Blocks of Jewish Fluency"</i>
3 rd Grade	<i>"Jewish Symbols, Genealogies, Places and Stories"</i>
4 th Grade	<i>"Honoring, Preserving and Increasing the Light of Jewish Tradition"</i>
5 th Grade	<i>"Telling Your Story and the Story of the Jewish People"</i>
6 th Grade	<i>"Defining What You Believe and Standing up for it"</i>
7 th Grade	<i>"Being a Blessing in the World"</i>

SHABBAT CHAI

Shabbat Chai means “Shabbat Lives!” and is our Religious School program that takes place on Friday afternoons 4-7pm. As such, students come together to learn Jewish by living Jewish, and we encourage student learning through authentic leadership.

The Friday ***Shabbat Chai*** curriculum includes learning Torah and Rabbinic stories, Jewish values and lifecycle rituals, symbols and prayers. The curriculum is punctuated by several All-School Crescendo Moments of celebration centered around the holidays. Our students enjoy opportunities to lead one another and the community in Jewish life.

Each grade level enjoys a dedicated Family Shabbat Program annually. On these special days, students and their family members enjoy learning and Shabbat Dinner together during regularly scheduled *Shabbat Chai* sessions, followed by integration of the students into the Shabbat Service. We also include an opportunity for our teachers to share their experiences, specifically influential Jewish moments in their lives. In addition, parents must attend Chanukah Palooza (December 6 from 4-7pm) and Purim Palooza (March 6 from 4-7pm) as these are envisioned as family memory-making nights (instead of a drop-off day.)

Parents are welcome and encouraged to gather in the upstairs rotunda each Friday *Shabbat Chai* afternoon from 4-6pm for a parent social hour. These are organic ways for parents to build community, troubleshoot parenting challenges, and enjoy conversations among our adult community. Occasionally, informal programming is offered during these times as well to build connections and provide content. We welcome ideas— co-create this program with us!

Shabbat Chai is held on Friday afternoons, and **the last hour of the program includes attending and participating in Shabbat Services, which start at 6pm.** Students are joyfully invited to help lead the service, whether helping light the candles, leading the congregation in a prayer, or opening the ark.

Families with children in 2nd grade and younger

We fully understand that this may be too long of a day for our Preschool-2nd grade students to stay for the Shabbat Service from 6pm-7pm, but also don't want to make that assumption either. So, **PK-2nd graders also enjoy *Shabbat Katan*** at the beginning of *Shabbat Chai* where they gather as a singing school community to celebrate Shabbat with blessings. So, parents may choose to pick up their children in their classrooms at 5:45pm and can go home at that time, or they may head to the communal oneg followed by the Shabbat Service at 6pm. If students are planning on attending any part of the service, they may also partake in the pizza dinners we have available for the students in grades 3-7. We aim to make staying for the service easy for families, and encourage attendance at even a small part of the service. For these younger ones, especially, staying in the service until the L'chah Dodi prayer (about 7 minutes into the service), could be a great goal at

Religious School 1st Day Friday, August 23

Students

4pm-5:45pm Welcome Back! Students in grade level classrooms

Parents

4pm Parent Social Hour & Shabbat Showcase (*get to know more about ways to get involved*)

5pm Parent Orientation

5:30pm Parents meet the teachers

6pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service

the outset of the year, and as the year progresses perhaps staying through the Sh'ma (about 20 minutes in) or even the Amidah (about 30 minutes in) could become attainable. Each family and each child is unique, so our program affirms the parents' decision to determine the appropriate course of action to match to the goals, schedule, and attention level of your child. One size does not fit all, and that's a beautiful thing!

Families with children in 3rd-7th grades

On Friday afternoons, students in 3rd-7th grades go with their teachers upstairs at 5:30pm to rooms 214/215 where they are offered pizza dinner. Families may reunite with their 3rd-7th grader at 5:45pm and then walk into services as a family. If, for any reason, a child is not reunited with their family by 5:55pm, our staff will lead the student into services and remain with them there until a parent arrives to reunite with them in the service.

Families who stay for the Shabbat Service say that it is:

- “wonderful to have a space to rest and reflect in community”
- “great to see their children become familiar with the prayers”
- “lovely to sing ancient and new melodies together”
- “great for their kids to see Friday night services before their bar/bat mitzvah service where they lead parts of it”

Parents Attend with Students 4-7pm

Chanukah Palooza
Get Ready for Hanukkah,
December 6

Purim Palooza
Purim Carnival,
March 6

Family Learning Experiences 4-7pm, dinner included

PK/K	September 20
1 st & 2 nd	January 10
3 rd & 4 th	March 27
*5 th & 6 th	*Feb 21-23
7 th	May 15

*5th & 6th Grade Retreat

- Feb 21, 4-8pm Family Experience
- Feb 22, 9:30am-1pm B'nai Mitzvah Live
- Feb 23, 10am-5pm Outdoor Experience

KINDERGARTEN CONSECRATION

Each year, we mark the entrance into formal Jewish learning with a consecration service for kindergartners and their loved ones.

Please join us during our Simchat Torah celebration on Monday, October 21st 6pm-6:30pm for this year's consecration, and stay beyond for communal Simchat Torah celebration where we unroll the Torah!

Kindergarten Consecration Monday, October 21

6:00pm	Consecration & Family Torah Celebration
6:30pm	Community Joins in Simchat Torah Celebration

HEBREW SCHOOL

Learners in 3rd-7th grades participate in both our *Shabbat Chai* Fridays from 4-7pm and Hebrew Mondays from 4:30-6:30pm.

The goals of our Monday Hebrew School Curriculum for 3rd-7th graders also include bringing students to fluency with reading Hebrew, prayers, their recitation and meaning. Over the course of the years, students acquire the ability to read Hebrew, understand many of the key words, and chant various prayers in preparation for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Moments of mindfulness, prayer, gratitude, and a reflective practice are infused into sessions as well. In these moments, students are encouraged to dedicate their learning in honor of, in memory of, or with hopes of healing for a loved one. These tender moments encourage authentic communal bonding and deeper purpose to learning.

Three times throughout the year, the 3rd-7th graders gather together for All-School T'filah Crescendo Moments where students in each grade level lead the prayer or prayers they have been working on. Clergy from other faith traditions are invited to experience the students' authentic leadership and ask them questions about the content. This empowers students into positions of teachers and guides, and solidifies their learning. After all, learning in order to learn is one thing, but learning in order to teach is an entirely different kind of learning! It is wonderful when parents attend these All-School T'filah Crescendo Moments as they help bear witness to their children's learning and help celebrate their progress. Parents have also remarked that they walk away more knowledgeable, too. Mark your calendar now to attend our All-School T'filah sessions: November 18, February 10, and May 11.

Parents Encouraged to Attend

All-School T'filah 4:30-6:30pm

Mondays
November 18
February 10
May 11

BAR & BAT MITZVAH

Religious school participation in both *Shabbat Chai* Fridays and Hebrew Mondays is designed to intellectually and socially provide a foundation of empowerment for students to become B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Beth El of South Orange County. We do this through intentional and integrated curriculum that infuses content learning, context, real engagement in community life, and leadership in Temple programs. Students who have successfully engaged in and completed four years of Jewish education are well prepared to become a bar/bat mitzvah in our community.

To best prepare your family for the process of becoming a bar/bat mitzvah at TBESOC, please plan to join us on Friday, February 21-23. This will be an opportunity to gain a clear understanding of the process and expectations for our b'nai mitzvah program and develop meaningful grade level family and community connections.

5th and 6th Grade Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah Retreat
Friday, Feb 21, 4-7pm
Saturday, Feb 22, 9:30am-1pm
Sunday, Feb 22, 10am-5pm

Provided the requirements to become a bar/bat mitzvah are met (details are found in our B'nai Mitzvah booklet titled "A Guide for Parents" online at www.tbesc.org/bnaimitzvahresources.html) students begin B'nai Mitzvah training six months prior to their ceremony date. **In addition to the two days per week Religious School program, this training includes weekly one-on-one sessions with a tutor** to learn the Torah portion and polish up on proficiency leading prayers. During the six months leading up to the bar/bat mitzvah date, there are also five individualized sessions with our clergy team to craft the service, inspire their D'var Torah, and support the student on the cusp of this meaningful transition. For any b'nai mitzvah questions, please contact the Program Coordinator Wendy Yesharim at 949-362-3999 x214 or at wyescharim@tbesc.org.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Teens make significant contributions to our synagogue community. They do so through BEMSY, the 8th grade Tzedakah Board, and BESTY programs.

Beyond their religious school years, teens are encouraged to continue attending Shabbat Chai Fridays in the capacity of Madrichim, leaders in the program helping younger students and teachers. To participate, please make arrangements with the Program Coordinator Wendy Yesharim at 949-362-3999 x214 or at wyescharim@tbesc.org.

Post B'nai Mitzvah Students may become Madrichim & fulfill community service hours

Middle schoolers may join our middle school youth group, BEMSY, as they meet for fun and festive Shabbat dinners, and as special guests to appropriate BESTY events.

Eighth graders may participate in our Tzedakah Board where they take part in creating a philanthropic foundation committed to engaging in questions of how to fix our broken world. Participants learn Jewish wisdom on charitable giving and social change, financial literacy, and modern philanthropy, and then award grants to organizations that they deem effective in making the world a better place.

Those in 8th-12th grades may join our senior youth group, BESTY, which creates a time for teens to feel like they can be themselves while developing bonds and strengthening friendships with other Jewish teens. Our

AN INVITATION

Our curriculum is an evolving guide. We continually strive for new and innovative ways of bringing our holiday and worship experiences to life, while providing students with solid content knowledge, personally meaningful understandings, and empowered leadership opportunities. Parents are welcome and encouraged to co-create our children's learning experiences by contacting Wendy Yesharim at wyescharim@tbesoc.org or 949-362-3999 x214 or by joining the Religious School Education Committee by contacting the VP of Education, Dayna Herz at daynaherz@gmail.com.

Your active participation is vital in making these experiences a true success. Additionally, if you would like to contribute by volunteering before the start of the *Shabbat Chai* year, please contact our Program Director, Wendy Yesharim (wyescharim@tbesoc.org; 949-362-3999, ext. 214.)

- Join the Religious School Committee
- Attend & actively engage in Grade Level Programs
- Volunteer your time & talents (offer/give help!)

5780/2019-20 CALENDAR

August 2019			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Friday	August 23	4-7pm	First Day of <i>Shabbat Chai</i> , Parent Social Hour Orientation and Meet the Teachers
Monday	August 26	4:30-6:30pm	First Day of Monday Hebrew School
September 2019			
Friday	September 6	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> and September Birthdays
Monday	September 9	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	September 20	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> (PreK/K Family Shabbat Experience)
Monday	September 23	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Monday	September 30	9:45-12:45	<i>Rosh Hashanah Children's Program</i>
October 2019			
Wednesday	October 9	9:45-12:45	<i>Yom Kippur Children's Program</i>
Friday	October 18	4-5:30pm 5:30pm	Sukkot <i>Shabbat Chai</i> "Pizza in the Hut" and October Birthdays
Monday	October 21	4:30-6:30pm 6-6:30pm 6:30-8pm	Hebrew School Kindergarten Consecration Simchat Torah Celebration
Monday	October 28	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
November 2019			
Monday	November 4	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Monday	November 18	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School & All School T'filah (Parents encouraged to attend)
Friday	November 22	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> & November Birthdays

December 2019			
Monday	December 2	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	December 6	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> Chanukah Palooza *(PARENTS MUST ATTEND)* and December Birthdays
Monday	December 9	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Monday	December 16	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
January 2020			
Monday	January 6	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday,	Friday, January 10	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> (1 st & 2 nd Grade Family Shabbat) and January Birthdays
Monday	January 13	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday,	Friday, January 24	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> & 6 th Grade Prophets Gallery
Monday	January 27	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
February 2020			
Monday	February 3	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	February 7	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> /Tu B'Shvat Celebration and February Birthdays
Monday	February 10	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School/All School T'filah (Parents encouraged to attend)
Friday	February 21	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> (5 th & 6 th Grade Family Shabbat & Retreat, February 21-23)
Monday	February 24	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
March 2020			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	March 2	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	March 6	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> Purim Palooza *(PARENTS MUST ATTEND)* and March Birthdays
Monday	March 16	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Monday	March 23	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School

Friday	March 27	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> (3 rd & 4 th Grade Family Shabbat)
Monday	March 30	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
April 2020			
Monday	April 13	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	April 17	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> & April Birthdays
Monday	April 20	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Friday	April 24	4-7pm	<i>Shabbat Chai</i> & Outdoor Shabbat
Monday	April 27	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
May 2020			
Monday	May 4	4:30-6:30pm	Hebrew School
Monday	May 11	4:30-6:30pm	Last Hebrew School/All School T'filah (Parents encouraged to attend)
Friday	Friday, May 15	4-7pm	Shabbat Chai Siyyum Celebrations! 7th Grade Mitzvah Recognition & Family Shabbat (Parents encouraged to attend)

Important Dates: Parents, you don't want to miss these!

First Day of Religious School	August 23, 4-7pm
Kindergarten Consecration	October 21, 6-6:30
All School T'filah	November 18, 4:30-6:30pm
All School T'filah	February 10, 4:30-6:30pm
All School T'filah	May 11, 4:30-6:30pm
Siyyum/Mitzvah Recognition	May 15, 4-7pm

PARENTS MUST ATTEND AND WILL ENJOY MAKING MEMORIES:

Chanukah Palooza / Get Ready for Chanukah December 6, 4-7pm
Purim Palooza / Purim Carnival March 6, 4-7pm



TEMPLE BETH EL

OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

The Samueli Center for Progressive Judaism

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