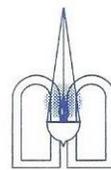


TEMPLE BETH DAVID
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
STUDENT/PARENT
5778 HANDBOOK



temple beth david
of the san gabriel valley

בית דָּוִד

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Attendance and School Hours

Regular attendance at Temple Beth David Religious is critical if each child is to fully sense their link to the classroom community and the larger school as a whole. Late arrivals interfere with lessons and creates anxiety for the students. Prompt arrival and consistent attendance reinforces our commitment to Jewish education and enhances the positive feelings of each child.

If for any reason your child will be absent, or needs to be picked up early, a note or a phone call is mandatory to the staff or your child's teacher.

Sunday sessions begin promptly at 9:30 am and conclude at 12:30 pm. If your child is also studying Hebrew in preparation for Bar or Bat Mitzvah, there will be a break at 12:30, and Hebrew class will commence at 12:45 pm ending at 1:30 pm.

Parental Partnership/Participation

Parents are always welcome to visit their child's class, but we strongly suggest checking with the teacher several days in advance. Temple Beth David welcomes the varied talents and specialties of our students' parents and extended families. We have always encouraged parental involvement with special programs and field trips.

We ask that parents schedule their child's sports and extracurricular activities on days other than Sunday. When major time conflicts occur, parents should contact the Education Director regarding temporary arrangements that may be made. If a child is going to be absent for more than two consecutive sessions, parents should contact the school for assignments.

Parent/Teacher Communication

Report cards enable both families and teachers to assess the students' achievements throughout the year. These reports, sent during the middle, and at the end of the year, will inform you and your child of his or her positive contributions to the class, and areas that call for improvement. The goal of these progress reports is to help your child be as successful as possible. Whenever parents are concerned about their child's progress, they are invited to arrange a conference with the teacher. This can be done by calling the office, and requesting a return call from the teacher or teachers. **The time immediately before and immediately after school is not appropriate for conferences**, unless prior arrangements have been made.

We encourage communication between parents and teachers and believe that your child's well-being depends on an informed staff. Information about conditions that may affect your child's learning will be shared only with your child's teacher and is held in the strictest confidence. Parents will be informed in advance of special class or schoolwide programs.

Tzedakah – Keren Ami (The Fund of My People)

Our Religious School students are asked to bring tzedakah, in the form of money, for our Keren Ami Fund. At the end of the year, each class will again distribute their collected funds to help deserving recipient organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. We encourage our children to learn that by donating to causes within the community, we have a part in repairing the world (tikun

olam). Parents are urged to allow their children to earn part of the money they bring to allow them to experience the personal meaning of giving to another. Additionally, an ongoing food drive allows all in our congregation to bring non-perishable food and sundry items as a means of lessening the pains of poverty in our environs. Sharing some of our possessions with those in need is critical to the tenets of our prophetic faith.

Safety

We ask that parents adhere to the following guidelines with regard to drop-off and pick-up of children.

1. We ask that parents be punctual when dropping-off and picking-up their children as we are not equipped to provide before or after hours daycare.
2. Parents of Pre-K through 3rd Grade students should park their cars and walk their child to their classroom.
3. Older students may be dropped off in front of the main entrance to the Temple. Students should proceed directly to class.
4. Students must be escorted to vehicles by an adult. Children will not be allowed to walk unattended across the parking lot.
5. At no time, should parents stop their vehicle in the middle of the driveway to carry on conversations or to take care of Temple business. It is therefore requested that parents pull through the circular driveway and park their cars.
6. Please be respectful and leave the designated spaces for the handicapped, Rabbi, Cantor and Temple President free at all times.
7. If for any reason, a child needs to leave early, parents **MUST** inform the teacher and/or Education Director. In this instance, the child **MUST** be retrieved from his/her classroom. We are unable to excuse a child early to wait to be picked up.
8. If someone other than parents is to pick up a child, the school needs to be informed. Under no circumstance will a child be released to a person unknown to the school without prior authorization.

Disaster Preparedness

It is our policy to be well prepared in case of an emergency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends supplies for a period of three days. Each family is asked to purchase a “support pack” for each child. The pack contains water, food, first aid materials and have a shelf life of five years. During an emergency, our staff will remain on duty until all children are picked up. Children will be released only to a parent or an authorized designee.

In the event of a medical emergency, parents will be notified immediately. In addition, if a child becomes ill while in school, the parents will be contacted and asked to make arrangements to have the child taken home.

The school maintains files for both disaster preparedness and medical emergencies.

Young Family Shabbat Services

Young Family Shabbat Services precede the regular adult service and are geared for children in the 1st Grade and younger. The Cantor's songs and the Rabbi's stories light up the bright eyes of the children to usher in a truly warm and engaging Shabbat experience for our youngest age level.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Policies and procedures for Bar/Bat Mitzvah are highlighted in a separate handbook which is distributed at a special pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah family meeting. Students are expected to be enrolled in the Religious School and Hebrew classes. To begin the process, parents will be notified by Cantor Schwartz. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah date must be approved by Rabbi, Cantor, and Temple Administration. Families must be members in good standing.

Camp Scholarships

It is our goal that all students prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah have an opportunity to go to a Jewish summer camp. In addition to fun activities and opportunities to make Jewish friends, it provides an intensive Jewish living and learning experience. To that end, our congregation is committed to affording every child the possibility of attending a Jewish camp by providing camp scholarships. In addition, students completing Confirmation wanting to participate in a trip to Israel program qualify for a partial scholarship. Please contact the office for information about camps and campership funds.

Behavior

All individuals in our school, students, staff members, families, and community expect to be treated with respect. All of our students participate in the creation of an environment conducive for learning. If any student's behavior interferes with a classmate's ability to learn, we understand this to mean that the student is excluding him or herself from the classroom community. In those instances, our role is to guide the students to take responsibility for their actions and to support them in finding solutions that allow the learning to continue. In rare cases, this may require a student to remove him or herself from the classroom entirely.

As a prerequisite for education is a sense of security at all times, physical violence is not tolerated under any circumstances. Our goal is for students to develop the skills necessary to resolve interpersonal differences. We are committed to providing staff supervision and guidance that supports our students in resolving conflicts.

Students should not distract or prohibit another student from learning. If he/she does the student will be talked to by the teacher to resolve the problem. If it continues the parents and Cantor will be involved to address the problem.