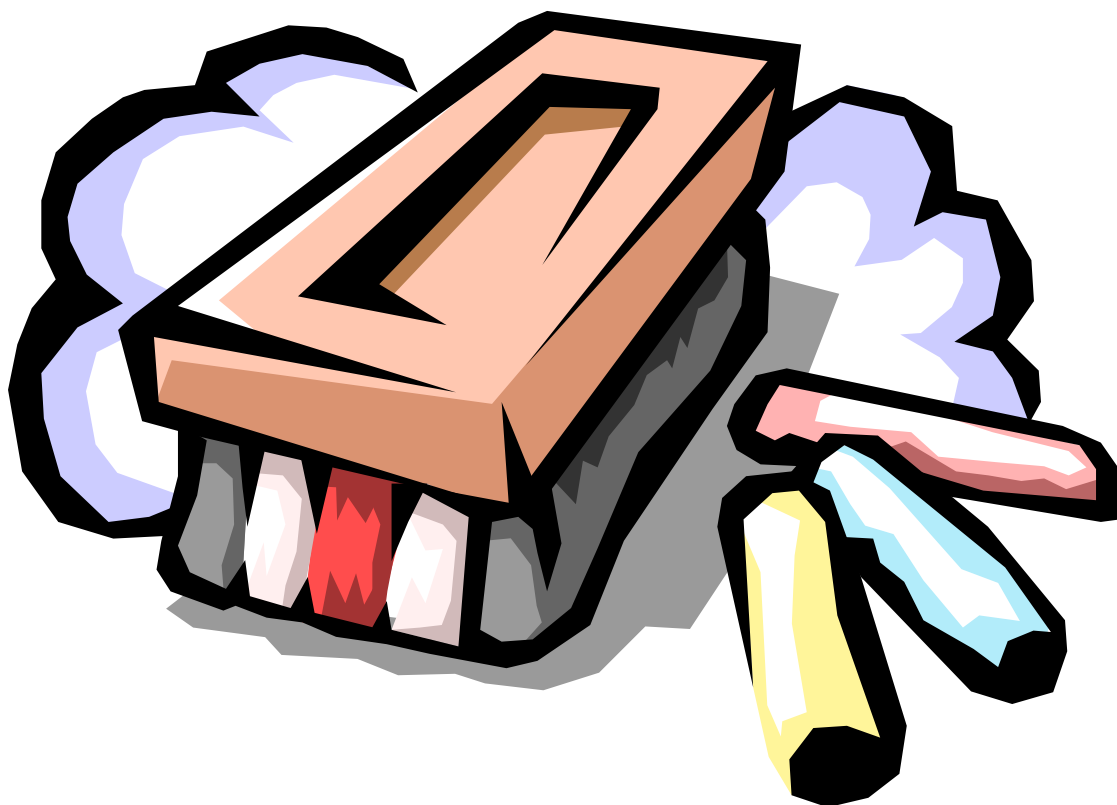


Congregation **B**eth **I**srael **R**eligious **S**chool

PARENT HANDBOOK

~ 2010-2011 ~



• 18 Shalom Way • Scotch Plains, NJ • 07076 • (908) 889-1830, Ext. 207 •

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Rabbi's Message

You Have Made a Good Choice!

As parents, we care to give our children the very best. We want them to grow healthy and strong. We want them to enjoy all the opportunities of life that we have enjoyed, if not more. We make important choices for our children, when they are very young, hoping to guide them on the right path in life. Sending your children to Religious School is one of those choices, and it is a very good one.

Yes, attending Religious School will become a big commitment of time and money. Yes, your child may complain, wishing he or she could be playing a sport or home watching TV or playing on the computer, instead of attending Religious School. But as Jewish parents, this is one of those decisions we have to help our children make.

I urge you to make Religious School attendance a priority for your child. Many activities will compete with attending Religious School. Please choose wisely among them, trying to avoid conflicts. Few of our children will become professional athletes, musicians, or dancers, but all of them will be Jewish for the rest of their lives. These precious years may be our only real chance to guide and encourage our children to become proud and learned Jews.

We often think that our children are “born Jewish,” but actually, Judaism is something we all have to earn and learn. No one becomes a Jew accidentally. It takes conscious effort and commitment. What is true of our children is also true for ourselves. The mitzvah of studying Torah never ends. Help your child realize the importance of his/her Religious School education by continuing your own Jewish education! Remember, our children don't only learn by what we say to them, they learn by the examples we show them – sometimes even more!

Thank you for sending us your children! You have made a good choice!

Rabbi Nudell

Education Director's Message

Ma Tovv

Ma Tovv: How lovely are your tents, people of Jacob, your dwelling places, descendants of Israel.

Ma Tovv is the prayer we recite upon walking into the synagogue. It is found in the *Birchot Hashahar*, morning blessings, section of our *tefilah*, prayer service. When reciting this prayer with children, I like to ask them to equate the Israelites tents with a modern day example. I usually receive answers such as; “my house” or “a *Sukkah*”. I dig a little deeper until they understand how the Israelites’ tents served as their place of worship – similar to our synagogues today. We look around our synagogue and list all the things that make it lovely, all the adornments including the artwork, the people and the furnishings. Reciting this prayer when we enter the synagogue is derived from an interpretation in the Talmud that equates “your tents” as houses of study and “your dwelling places” as synagogues..

As the theme for this year, 5771, let’s think of this prayer in a new way:

Ma Tovv: How lovely our sanctuary, CBI, and our house of study, the CBI Religious School.

Throughout the year, we will focus on the loveliness of the CBI religious school – creative teaching methods, innovative family education programs, numerous mitzvah projects and congregational involvement. I welcome you to come on this journey with us!

As I have mentioned throughout my summer “meet and greets”, my goal is to provide a high quality Jewish educational program that is stimulating, thought provoking and creative. I hope to create a community of learners who take pride in their Jewish heritage and are inspired to learn, understand and participate in Jewish life and ritual. Our school is guided by the tenants and principles of Judaism, including:

TIKUN OLAM - MENDING THE WORLD

TZEDEK TZEDEK TIRDOFF - SEE THE SAME JUSTICE FOR OTHERS AS YOU DEMAND FOR YOURSELF

TORH L’SHMA - THE STUDY OF TORAH FOR ITS OWN SAKE

KOL YISRAEL AREVIM ZEH LA’ZEH - WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER

In order for this community to thrive, the Religious School, the synagogue and the family need to work together. The more you become involved in Jewish education the more meaningful it becomes to your children. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to become involved in your own Jewish education, as well as that of your family. Here are just a few ways to get involved:

- Join the education committee
- Attend Shabbat Services with your family
- Attend the family education programs in the school
- Take an adult education class or attend a lecture

The education committee is comprised of parents who have children in the congregational school and works with the Education Director to set policies, fundraise, develop programs and review curriculum. It is the place where concerns are heard and parents come together to plan various activities and programs. We encourage all parents to become involved and to volunteer their time when able. This year’s co-chairs are Stacie Friedman and Jacqui Gross.

This handbook serves as a guide to our school. The information inside will answer many of your questions about our goals, academic programs and policies. Please keep it and use it as a reference throughout the year, it will also be available on line. I look forward to the coming year and please feel free to contact me with any concerns, thoughts or suggestions.

Elly Bauman

Aims and Objectives

These aims and objectives will succeed if there is active parental participation and cooperation at all levels in the religious school. Parents will be kept informed by receiving periodic reports during the school year.

1. To develop a positive Jewish identity and initiate Jewish learning as a lifelong process.
2. To develop a positive feeling towards Zionism and towards Israel as the Jewish homeland.
3. To prepare our children to participate in the American Jewish community - ultimately for them to affiliate with a synagogue and Jewish organizations.
4. To enable our children to develop skills to practice Jewish traditions of Shabbat and holidays. To enable our children to understand and develop a positive feeling toward events of Jewish life cycle and home observances.
5. To understand the content of the prayers with special emphasis on Shabbat service.
6. To participate fully in the synagogue service.
7. To develop a knowledge of Jewish history from Biblical to modern times utilizing a topical study approach.
8. To acquire a positive feeling about the Hebrew language: developing oral vocabulary skills, developing mechanical reading skills, and achieving a level of reading comprehension based on sequential vocabulary relevant to synagogue and Jewish observance.
9. To further the causes of justice, freedom and peace by pursuing tzedek (righteousness), mishpat (justice) and chesed (loving deeds).
10. To express kinship with K'lal Yisrael by actively seeking the welfare of Jews throughout the world.

SAFETY AND BEHAVIOR

At Congregation Beth Israel Religious School, we are concerned with the safety and well-being of every student, and we look to our students and their parents to work with us in maintaining a safe, comfortable, and productive environment. Our primary objectives in this area are:

- To ensure safety and well-being;
- To facilitate school work;
- To promote courtesy, cooperation, and respect;
- To protect property.

Many of the items that children use every day at home and outside are not suitable in the classroom environment, including cell-phones, and electronic, hand-held games (including DS and game boys). **Students who bring these items to school will be asked to drop them off in the School Office and retrieve them at the end of the day.**

Certain items which may be appropriate when used under parental supervision are not appropriate in a school setting. Included in this category are pocket knives, toy guns, and water guns. Even an “x-acto knife” that is part of an art kit or matches that are used in a science project should not be brought to school.

There are times when children cross the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. As part of our educational approach, we feel that the teacher must relate to each situation and each child in a way that he or she feels will best support that child and the group as a whole. In most cases, problematic behaviour will be handled by the teacher involved. The principal will assist in situations which cannot be resolved easily, and when needed, parental support will be enlisted.



On the following page of this handbook, is the Congregation Beth Israel Religious School *Kavod* Code – Code of Conduct. We ask that you read the *Kavod* Code with your child(ren) and discuss the importance of ensuring a safe and respectful school environment.






Discipline

Finding the balance between positive guidance and discipline for breaking the rules, between enforcing good behavior and setting boundaries for bad behavior, is a very difficult task. At Congregation Beth Israel, we feel that it is extremely important to promote positive interaction between students. We want our children to be considerate of others and to be responsible to one collective environment. We believe that, within the classroom, it is up to the discretion of the classroom teacher to determine what action is appropriate. If the teacher feels that teacher-student communication has proven to be ineffective, then parent conferences will be the next step. If the behavioral problem should persist and classroom routine is disrupted, in-school suspension for a minimum of one week will follow. The last step when all else has failed will be out of school suspension. We recognize that children need to test rules, their environment, the adults around them, and themselves in order to grow. However, if parents and teachers work together as adult role models, we will have more success with our youngsters. Please read and discuss this discipline plan with your child.

Congregation Beth Israel Religious School

Kavod Code

(Code of Conduct)

K	Kindness 	I behave with Kavod by treating both adults and kids with <i>kindness</i> and courtesy.
A	Awareness 	I will treat the school with Kavod by having <i>awareness</i> of my surroundings and by keeping them clean and undamaged.
V	Value No Violence 	I will <i>value no violence</i> by playing with Kavod . This means I won't hurt, bully, roughhouse or exclude anyone. Everyone can have fun together.
O	Obey 	I will act with Kavod and <i>obey</i> classroom rules and Keep the Code!
D	Dress 	I will <i>dress</i> with Kavod by wearing appropriate clothing.

I have read our school Kavod Code. I promise to do my very best to **Keep the Code** and will help other people do so.

ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Religious school represents a major investment of time and energy on the part of our students and their families. As parents, you depend on us to help make the most of this investment and we are deeply committed to this task. From experience, we know that families also play an important role in helping students to do their best and get the most out of Religious school. In this section, we provide guidelines for ensuring a student's successful participation in our program.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is the single most important factor in a child's success at Hebrew school. The benefits of regular attendance are not only academic, but also social. As absences increase, a student feels less connected to peers and more like an outsider in class. The other students learn not to count on his or her participation in group activities, projects, and presentations.

Arriving Prepared:

Students who arrive at school with all the necessary books and school supplies feel confident and ready to learn. We recommend that families develop a routine that ensures that students arrive at school with everything they need (e.g. Religious school materials packed the night before and placed in a spot where they will not be forgotten.)

It is also very helpful when parents ask their children after each session what sort of preparation will be needed for the following session. In addition to communicating interest, it provides an opportunity to plan how and when the preparation will occur.

B'Mitzvotav

B'Mitzvotav is a learning - through - doing program based on Rabbinic teachings for Hei class students approaching their Bar/Bat mitzvah. According to tradition, there are 613 mitzvot in the Torah falling into three areas: Torah, Worship and Loving Deeds. B'Mitzvotav has been created around these three categories of mitzvot. The student is offered different mitzvot to practice in preparation for becoming a Bar/Bat mitzvah.

An integral part of the program is the completion of thirteen hours of mandatory community service. We have service projects to recommend with Federation, the Chaplaincy Service, Jewish Family Service as well as an excellent referral guide of Mitzvah programs prepared by our Social Action Committee. Some students have visited nursing homes, the homebound elderly, worked as teacher-aides and assisted the synagogue doing necessary clerical work.

The core of this program is performing mitzvot. Our ultimate goal is the perpetuation of our own heritage by fulfilling our historic covenant with G-d. We do this *B'Mitzvotav*, through His commandments. Students completing the required thirteen hours of service are recognized at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Children With Special Needs

The concept of Jewish special education is one with strong halachic underpinnings. In Pirke Avot, one of our sages describes four different learners, each of whom has a specific learning style which must be addressed. Just as our Rabbis and sages had to accommodate for a diverse group of learners, so, too, do we need to provide for our special child.

Our special child comes to us in a variety of shapes and sizes with distinctive learning styles. We at Congregation Beth Israel are committed to meeting the needs of all our children. We are one of a small minority of congregational schools to employ a full time certified Special Education teacher. Our Resource Room is outfitted with a state of the art computer and Judaic software that supports the special needs of our students.

We work closely with the parents and public school to ensure that each child is taught according to his/her needs. When this is accomplished the result is positive self-esteem and Jewish continuity; to do otherwise is a risk we cannot afford to take. We are the proud recipients of United Synagogue's Solomon Schechter Silver Award for Special Education.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress respectfully. Please note that boys are expected to wear a *kipah* (*yarmulke*) in class. *Kipot* for girls are optional but strongly encouraged. On Shabbat and holidays, students should dress in a manner that reflects the holiness of the day. Hats are not an acceptable replacement for *kipot* in sanctuary services or during school *tefilot* sessions.

Drop Off Procedure

- A "DROP OFF" zone has been designated between the crosswalk and the entrance to the side parking lot.
- Students must exit vehicles on the passenger side only.
- Please do not block crosswalk.
- We have hired a policeman who will issue tickets or warnings to those not obeying our policy

Early Dismissal Procedure

Please go to the office first and sign your child out. Do not go to the classroom. He/she will meet you in the office.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of an emergency (e.g. fire, gas leak etc.), the Hebrew School students and staff will evacuate the building and proceed to an assembly point at Kramer Manor Park (the tennis courts) at the end of Shalom Way. They will remain there until it is safe to return to the building or until all of the students have been picked up by their parents or car pools. In the event that all vehicular access is blocked follow the guidance of emergency personnel who will direct you to your children.

Education Fund

Weddings, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, sympathy, special wishes, or congratulations of any kind can be acknowledged by a donation to the Education fund. Donations are used for enrichment materials that enhance our Religious School programs

Food/Kashrut

All food brought into the synagogue must conform to Congregation Beth Israel's Kashrut policy. Packaged foods must be unopened and labeled with Rabbinical supervision **OU** or **K**, or any approved hechsher which appears on the front. If you have questions please call the Synagogue office (908-889-1830). No food may be prepared outside and brought into the synagogue. Please remember, we are a *Peanut Free School*.

Help Keep Us Informed

Obviously, we are thrilled when parents tell us that their child is having a great experience at school. It is also important that you tell us when there is a problem. Sometimes parents are reluctant to 'bother' us with their concerns or feel that we may not want to hear from them. In fact, your feedback is extremely important to us, whether it is positive or negative. Please let us know how your child is doing. We cannot promise to solve every problem that arises, but we can and do promise to work on any problem that you call to our attention. In most cases, we are able to improve a problematic situation. But we need your help. Please keep in touch!

Homework

Like with any foreign language, continued use is necessary for mastery. While homework is given on a regular basis, we ask that you encourage your child to read Hebrew 5-10 minutes each night. He/She can read from a Siddur, a Chumash, or their textbook. It is the policy of our school that homework may be given by any teacher who feels it is meaningful and realistic for his or her students.

Inclement Weather

On the rare occasion that school must be cancelled because of hazardous driving conditions, it will be announced

weatherclosings.com. If time permits, we will also email all families.

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Late Arrival

Late arrivals are disruptive to a class. While we realize that lateness cannot always be avoided and would prefer to have a student arrive late than not at all, we ask for the cooperation of all of our families in making an effort to keep late arrivals to a minimum.

Parental Involvement

Children take their cue from their parents regarding their attitude toward Religious school and Jewish life. If you ask questions and take an interest in what goes on in Religious school, your child will care more, too. The same goes for attending school events. Children feel good about having their parents involved at school. They also feel disappointed when their parents are not among those attending a school program. In addition, we want you to know that your involvement is greatly valued by the teachers and synagogue leaders.

Pick up Procedure

- There is to be no parking or waiting to pick up on either side of Shalom Way at anytime.
- We request that parents park in either parking lot. It is advisable that parents of young children come into the building and escort their children to the car.

Student Evaluation

A student at Congregation Beth Israel is formally evaluated two times a year during his or her Hebrew school year (Alef - Hei). Report cards are mailed home in January and June. All evaluations are read by the Principal prior to being sent home. Parent/teacher conferences are held at the request of either party, at any time.

Although a student cannot fail Judaism, we expect that each student in our school will attempt to achieve to the best of his or her ability. However, we do understand that not all students perform alike. We believe in academic achievement, and a love of learning, for the sake of learning. Therefore, we expect that our students will complete all their assignments in a thorough, studious manner, and will not treat their Jewish education any differently than their secular education.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah is one of the most important mitzvot. As Jews, we are obligated to help one another. At Congregation Beth Israel we stress the importance of this important mitzvah not only in the giving of money, but in the giving of ourselves. Students will have an opportunity throughout the school year to participate in school wide Tzedakah projects.

Curriculum

K'Tonton

The K'Tonton program is designed exclusively for children who will be three by October 1st. Classes meet eight Sundays throughout the year, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and include "Ima, Abba and Me" holiday workshops. The program offers a multi-faceted experience through music, dance, arts & crafts, cooking and storytelling. Parent/child follow-up packets are sent home after each session.

Pre-Kindergarten

The Pre-Kindergarten holiday program is open to children who will be four years old by October 1st. The class meets ten Sundays throughout the year, strategically planned to coincide with upcoming holidays. The major focus of the year is holiday oriented. The holidays and Shabbat are taught through stories, singing, puppetry, cooking, dance and rhythms, dramatics and arts & crafts.

Kindergarten

Hebrew: The students will be introduced to basic vocabulary including family, colours, body parts, weather, numbers, seasons, classroom, *Shabbat* and holiday related words. The students will learn to recognize the Hebrew letters.

Tefillah: The students will be introduced to the concepts of thanking God including when and how we thank God. The students will learn basic *brachot* including *brachot* over food, and *Shabbat* and holiday related *brachot*. They will begin each class with the singing of *Modeh Ani* and *Shema*.

Tanach: The students will be introduced to basic *Torah* stories, heroes in the *Torah* and the beginning of the Jewish people. They will explore the concepts of God as creator of the world, God and the Jewish people and how the *Torah* is a guide for our lives.

Chagim: The students will learn the basics of each Jewish holiday including *Shabbat*. They will learn the customs of how each holiday is celebrated in the home and in the synagogue.

Mitzvot: The students will explore various *mitzvot* including honouring their parents, visiting the sick, *shalom bayit*, *Gemilut Hasadim* and others.

First Grade

Hebrew: The students will learn *Shabbat* and holiday related vocabulary and begin attaining oral language skills. With the help of a textbook, the students will work on letter recognition.

Tefilah: The students will begin to learn simple prayer terminology. They will focus on the following prayers, *Shema*, *V'ahavta*, *Modeh Ani*, *Birchot Hanehenin* (daily blessings), *Shabbat brachot* and *Shehecheyanu*.

Tanach: The students will revisit the popular stories while engaging in activities that will help the students discover how our ancestors lived.

Chagim: The students will learn about each Jewish holiday and how they are celebrated.

Mitzvot: The students will focus on the *mitzvot* of *Tzedakah*. They will discuss ways we can be responsible for others and ways of doing *Tzedakah*.

Second Grade

Hebrew: The students will continue to build their *Shabbat*, holiday and *Siddur* vocabulary. The students will begin working on their reading fluency.

Tefilah: The students will continue to increase their *Shabbat* and Holiday vocabulary. The students will focus on the following prayers: *Kiddush* for *Shabbat*, *Shalom Aleichem*, *Mah Nishtanah*, first paragraph of *Birkat HaMazon* and the first paragraph of *Shema*.

Tanach: The students will focus on the biblical period and discuss the Bible stories and the heroes associated with them.

Chagim: The students will learn about all the Jewish holidays, including the home and communal rituals.

Mitzvot: The student will first focus on the *mitzvot* of *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim* (kindness to animals). They will look at the biblical laws and examples. They will discuss what they can do and connect it to *kashrut*. The students will then focus on *mitzvot bain adam l'chavero*. They will discuss respect for others, look for examples of laws and look at *Hillel*.

KITAH ALEPH (3RD GRADE)

Hebrew: They will continue to improve their reading fluency, transition to *Siddur* reading and, towards the end of the year, begin cursive writing.

Tefilah: Besides the prayers in their book, they will focus on *Havdalah*, *Birkat HaMazon*, *L'cha Dodi*, *V'shamru*, *Ashrei*, and *Adon Olam*. They will specifically look the *Mincha* and *Maariv* services.

Tanach: The students will look at the major themes and events in the *Torah* from Creation to the Exodus. The students will ponder, personalize and wrestle with the text.

Chagim: The students will learn the Jewish calendar, including the names of the Hebrew months, the difference between lunar and solar, and the where the Jewish holidays fall out in the calendar.

Mitzvot: The students will re-look at *Tzedakah* focussing on *Rambam's* ladder, biblical examples and practical ways of doing *Tzedakah*.

Israel: An overview of the country.

KITAH BET - grade 4

Hebrew: Using the textbook, *Hineni* 1, the students will learn 70 key prayer words and 17 roots, prefixes and suffixes. They will continue practicing reading fluency and writing drill.

Tefilah: The students will focus on the Friday evening home rituals, *Shacharit* service, basic *Siddur* terms and an introduction to the *Amidah*. The students will review and learn the following prayers: Friday evening home rituals, *Shalom Aleichem*, *Sim Shalom*, *Ayn Kkaylokenu*, *Baruch She-Amar*, *Amidah* (first three *brachot*) and *Brachot Hatorah*.

Tanach: The students will learn about the *Nevi'im* (prophets) and *Ketuvim* (writings). They will look at the transition from a people to a nation beginning to understand prophets and prophecy, kings, kingdoms and their problems. In addition, they will

Chagim: The students will focus on the *Shalosh Regalim* (*Sukkot*, *Pesach*, and *Shavuot*). They will concentrate on the following areas: ties to Jewish history and agriculture, ties to *Eretz Yisrael*, basic observances, names of the holidays and terminology. They will also focus on *Shabbat* as they prepare for their Friday evening service. They will discuss *Shabbat* as a day of rest, and as remembrance of Creation and Exodus. The students will learn the customs and observances associated with *Shabbat*.

Mitzvot: The students will focus on the *mitzvot* of *Gemilut Hasadim* and *Kashrut*. The students will specifically focus on *Maot Chittin* – providing assistance to Jews in need to meet the holiday’s special requirements.

KITAH GIMMEL - grade 5

Hebrew: The students will continue their *Siddur* vocabulary through the textbook, *Hineni 2*. They will explore stories related to the meaning of prayer and *Torah* terminology. They will continue with reading fluency and begin grammar exercises.

Tefilah: In addition to the prayers learned in their textbook, the students will focus on *Kriat Shema* and *Maariv*. They will learn the following prayers, *Barechu*, *Kel Adon*, *Vayomer*, *Ahava Rabah/Ahavat Olam*, parts of *Hallel*, *Birchot HaHaftarah*, *Kaddish*, and *Aleynu*.

Tanach: The students will use the *Torah* text to study the Book of *Beraisheet*. They will also do a more indepth look at certain prophets and *Midrash*.

Chagim: The students will focus their studies on the minor holidays, *Chanukah*, *Tu B'Shevat*, *Purim* and the spring holidays. They will learn basic observances and explore historical dating and Jewish identity and identification.

Mitzvot: The students will explore the Jewish Life Cycle. They will understand the terminology, concepts and how to make it part of their lives.

Israel: Through history, the students will take a “tour” of Israel. Along the way, they will learn Hebrew words, Jewish values, intriguing information and geography.

KITAH DALET - grade 6

Hebrew: They will continue their reading fluency in the *Siddur*. In addition, they will be introduced to modern Hebrew.

Tefilah: The students will focus on the *Amidah* and *Musaf* service. They will learn all the parts of the *Amidah*, High Holiday *Kiddush*, *Passover Kiddush* and key *brachot*, and will review *Bircat HaHaftarah* and *Bircat HaTorah*.

Tanach: The students will use the *Torah* text to study the Book of Exodus. They will be introduced to rabbinic commentary and the structure of the *Tanach*.

Chagim: The students will focus on the *Yamim Noraim*, *Pesach*, *Tisha B'Av* and minor fasts. They will look at Biblical and Rabbinic sources, *Teshuvah/Tefilah/Tzedakah*, detailed study of the *Seder* and *Haggadah* and *kashrut* of *Pesach*.

History: Through a textbook, the students will consider how their lives compare with the lives of those who came before them, how Judaism has evolved in every generation, and how the decisions of our forebears to adapt Judaism to their times and circumstances influence our own decisions today.

Mitzvot: The students will explore various Jewish values through their everyday relationships and decision making .

Bnai Mitzvah: Students will explore Jewish values through their everyday relationships and decision making.

KITAH HEI – grade 7

Hebrew: The students will study conversational Hebrew. They will learn simple grammar and begin to express themselves in Hebrew.

Tefilah: The students will review all *tefilot* – specifically *Shabbat Shacharit* and *Musaf*. They will study the *tefilah* structure and the structure of various services.

Talmud: An introduction to *Mishnah* and *Talmud* study.

Chagim: The students will trace the laws of *Shabbat* through the *Torah*, *Talmud*, *Mishneh Torah*, *Shulchan Aruch*, Medieval and modern response. They will study the Conservative movement and begin to understand its place in the larger Jewish community.

Mitzvot/B'nai Mitzvah: Using the textbook, Making a Difference, and other instant lessons, the pre-*B'nai Mitzvah* students will discuss issues relevant to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*.

History: The students will study American Jewish history.

The Akiba Academy of Jewish Studies

The Akiba Academy Program is designed for the post Bar/Bat Mitzvah student and encompasses grades eight (8) through eleven (11).

We at CBI believe strongly that it is our responsibility to transmit to the youth a strong Jewish identity as well as provide for them an opportunity to search for and inquire about the meaning of life and the relevance of Judaism.

All grades will meet on Thursday evening from 6:45-8:45. The new program of study consists of smaller theme based sessions which last 3-4 weeks each. The students chose from among 3-5 different classes which pertain to that theme. Guest speakers will be brought in throughout the year to discuss topics particularly interesting to teens.

The classroom at Akiba Academy fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect for each other's viewpoint and encourages an open mindedness to embrace new philosophies. For a complete listing and description of courses studied an Akiba Academy brochure is available upon request.

College Credit Course

The twelfth grade curriculum is a three credit college course in Jewish History taught at Congregation Beth Israel in conjunction with our Synagogue, Kean University and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

- Sunday 8:45 – 10:40 Alef, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet
- Sunday 10:50 – 12:45 K, 1, 2 and Hei
- Sunday 9:30 – 10:30 K'Ton Ton (meets 8x a year)
- Sunday 11:00 – 12:15 Pre-K (meets monthly)
- Monday 4:00 – 6:00 Alef, Bet & Gimmel
- Monday 6:15 – 8:00 Dalet & Hei
- Monday 8:00 – 9:00 College Course
- Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00 Alef, Bet & Gimmel
- Wednesday 6:15 – 8:00 Dalet & Hei
- Thursday 6:45 – 8:45 Akiba Academy

Who's Who at Congregation Beth Israel?

Rabbi	George Nudell
Cantor	Matthew Axelrod
Education Director	Elly Bauman
Education Co-Chairs	Jacqui Gross & Stacie Friedman
Akiba Academy Co-Chairs	Amy Ratner & Joanne Schwartz

Religious School Staff:

K'Ton Ton

Pre-K

Kindergarten Susie Meyersdorf

1st Grade Orit Kirschner

2nd Grade Laura Mardar

Alef (Sunday) Susie Meyersdorf

Alef (Monday-Wednesday) Yeda Fish

Bet (Sunday) Heidi Pekarsky

Bet (Monday-Wednesday) Jackie Kaufman

Gimmel (Sunday) Laura Mardar

Gimmel (Monday-Wednesday) Miriam Geva

Dalet (Sunday) David Naimen
Rikki Rahmani

Dalet (Monday-Wednesday) Cantor Axelrod
Jackie Kaufman

Hei (Sunday) David Naimen
Rikki Rahmani

Hei (Monday-Wednesday)

Rabbi Bomrind
Susie Meyersdorf

Resource Room:

Dorit Rechter
Havvah Schwartz

Akiba Academy

Rabbi Nudell
Rabbi Bomrind
David Naimen
Andrew Nusbaum
Rikki Rahmani