

# **bethisraelhebrewschool**



## **Shalom!**

Welcome to Beth Israel Hebrew School! For those of you that have been with us before, welcome back! I am VERY excited about the upcoming school year and I am getting ready to order books and plan out our activities for the first few months. I'm so excited to tell you that this year we will be incorporating computer based learning into our curriculum and that our new books allow each child to have their own license to a fantastic set of computer based games and interactive learning that will allow Beth Israel's teachers to track your child's progress at home and in the classroom.

Our school's most underlying theme is for the children to enjoy the time spent at Hebrew School so that they are left with positive feelings and warm memories of their Jewish education. As in previous years, this year's program will be blended with songs, games, incentives, arts and crafts, dramatics, holiday family celebrations and other exciting activities designed to keep your child engaged and excited to learn about and participate in Jewish society. It is a primary goal of our program that your children leave here with a strong feeling of identity with their heritage and that they develop a sense of love and pride in being Jewish.

To help your children develop a feeling for Judaism's beautiful teachings, traditions and historical lessons, there will be a considerable amount of time spent this year guiding your children through understanding of the Mitzvot, traditions and practices that Judaism stands for, study of the morals, values and behavior of the Torah and to development of and appreciation for a hands-on approach to the celebration of Shabbat and all of the Jewish holidays.

This year we are continuing our approach to helping your child master the skills of Hebrew reading and to gradually develop the ability to understand basic Hebrew words. We will continue to have an emphasis on learning the Hebrew words for many everyday objects at home, school and in the Synagogue and will also include a special emphasis on prayers so that the students will feel comfortable attending and participating in services. For those children coming close to Bar and Bat Mitzvah, this will go a very long way to preparing them to taking a greater role by leading the services at their Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies. Our new computer based learning system will also include access to audio files that you and your child can listen to together and home. This will help them learn and be prepared for attendance at all synagogue functions. We want your children to be able to participate in Shabbat and holiday services as if it's second nature.

I have enclosed a copy of this year's calendar. It is based on the St. Mary's County Public School calendar, the calendar of Jewish Holidays and the weekends that Rabbi Shemtov is currently planning to be with us in Lexington Park. You will see that I have tried to balance the calendar as much as possible and have made sure that we have off on special days such as Mother's Day (yeah for the moms!) so that we can enjoy some downtime with our families on holiday weekends and other weekends that coincide with full days off from public school.

I'd like to continue to encourage all parents to get involved with our school at any level where you are comfortable. There will be many opportunities throughout the school year for you to learn, teach and celebrate with us and I hope that you will take advantage of as many of these as possible. You absolutely do not have to read Hebrew to participate, so please do not let that hold you back. However, if you are interested in brushing up on your Hebrew reading skills or would like to start working at the basic level, I'm happy to announce that I will be arranging classes for adults this year. Please keep an eye out for announcements.

Enclosed you will also find several forms including registration, medical and photo release and a parent's questionnaire. Although most of you did fill out these forms for the last school year, I will need updated copies for each child for this year. A copy of each of these forms will need to be filled out for each of your children that will be attending Hebrew School this year. Please let me know if you have any questions on the content of the forms as you are working through them.

I have also enclosed a copy of the school supply list. Please be sure that your child is prepared with these supplies on the first day of school. Please be sure that your child brings their school bag with them every week as this year we will be having the children bring their work books home each week to facilitate use of the computer based learning during the week when they are home.

Finally, I have enclosed a copy of our Parent and Student Handbook, updated for this year. Please read it over and feel free to ask questions. I would like to call your attention to our continuation of administrative procedures this year that are intended to help keep our children safe and support a learning environment with fewer distractions. Please also note that we are continuing our "no cell phone" policy for the classroom. We greatly appreciate your assistance in helping the children meet this requirement.

Note that we are continuing our start time of 9:30 a.m. this year. I would like to take this opportunity emphasize that this is the start time for lessons and that it is important for your child to arrive 5 minutes early to allow them time to get their books in order and take their seats. This will insure that the children are provided the opportunity to completely enjoy the lessons, crafts, games and other activities planned to reinforce the day's lessons without loss of valuable class time. My main goal here is to not cut corners on teaching the children. I do appreciate that this early start time does require an early start to your Sunday morning routine. I myself live in the northern part of St. Mary's County and do appreciate the length of time it takes for many of you to get to the Synagogue. I'd like to give my thanks in advance for your continued support of this early start.

It is my fondest desire that your children maintain Jewish feelings and involvement beyond the years at Hebrew School and ultimately perpetuate this onto future generations. I am hoping that your child's Hebrew School education at Beth Israel will add an enriching spiritual dimension to the lives of your entire family!

Warmest Regards,  
Heidi Moore  
Beth Israel Hebrew School Principal  
bist.meshugeh@gmail.co,m  
(240)256-5960



# **bethisraelhebrewschool**

## **student & parent handbook**

**Location:** Our Hebrew School is located in Lexington Park, at Beth Israel Synagogue, 21780 Bunker Hill Drive. We are across the street from Nicolett Park.

**Program Dates & Times:** School hours are Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please see the school calendar for the specific dates that we will be in session. Note that our overall calendar coincides with the start and end of public school in St. Mary's County.

**Ages:** Our program is for children ages 3 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

**Registration:** To register, complete one (1) application form, medical and photo release form, emergency contact information and parent questionnaire for EACH child you are enrolling in school. You may photocopy information that is the same for all children. Once your application has been received, you will be contacted by the Beth Israel Treasurer regarding tuition payment.

**Tuition:** The tuition structure includes books and curriculum and is as follows:

- Beth Israel Congregation Members: \$175/child school age, \$90/child pre-school
- Non-Congregation Members: \$375/child school age, \$290/child pre-school

Multiple-child discounts are given. If you have any questions regarding the tuition structure or would like to become a member of the Congregation, please contact Linda Weintraub, Beth Israel Congregation President, or Jack Romano, Beth Israel Treasurer.

**Communication:** Our primary method of communication with parents is email. If you prefer to be contacted by an alternate method, please let us know.

**Attendance:** Parents and children should realize that consistent attendance is one of the keys to a successful school year. We will be taking attendance in each class this year and will use this tool to help track your child's progress.

**Drop Off / Pick Up:** It is important that your child arrives to school on time. However, children should not be dropped off more than 10 minutes before the start of school and should be picked up no later than 10 minutes after the end of school. For your child's safety, please note that you will need to sign your child in when they are dropped off and sign your child out when they are picked up. There will be a sign in/out book located near the door of the Synagogue. Although we have done this in the past, outside drop offs and picks ups are no longer allowed. Your child may only be picked up by an authorized adult as indicated in your child's registration information. Please feel free to list as many adults as necessary on your registration information. You may add/delete adults at any time

during the school year. Children will ONLY be released to those persons indicated as an Emergency Contact or to those persons indicated in writing to Beth Israel Hebrew School as an adult authorized to pick up your child. Please contact the Principal to make any changes. Note that ID may be requested if the staff is unfamiliar with the adult picking up your child. If you find that you need to drop off your child after school has started, please be sure that an adult member of staff knows that they are there. If you need to pick up before the end of school, please see an adult member of staff to confirm that you have picked your child up.

**Dress Code:** All boys are required to wear a Kipah for all classes. In addition, we will follow the standard dress code posted by the St. Mary's County School System which may be found on their website at [www.smcps.org](http://www.smcps.org). If you are unsure, please feel free to ask.

**School Supplies:** A majority of the supplies needed by the children for weekly classes, art projects and activities will be provided by Beth Israel Hebrew School. Donations of typical school supplies are always appreciated. If you'd like to donate, please contact the Principal for a list of items that we can put to good use. A short supply list of items that you should supply for your child will be provided at the beginning of the school year. If assistance is needed with locating or purchasing of supplies, please feel free to contact the Principal.

**Toys, Electronic Games & Cell Phones:** Please do not send your children to school with toys or electronic hand held games such as Nintendo DS, Nintendo Gameboy, Sony PSP, etc. These items may not be used at any time while Hebrew School is in session and are often distracting if the children know that they are in their school bag. We do understand that some children require the use of a cell phone and as such carry the phones with them. However, use of cell phones during class for texting, playing games, making calls, etc. is distracting to the student, teacher and other students in the class. Please be sure that your children understand that cell phone use during class time is prohibited for any reason other than an emergency. If there is an emergency and your child needs to make a call during class time, please request that they notify their teacher who will give them permission to make the call in a location that will not distract the other children. **If your child will be carrying a cell phone with them to school, please see the Principal for a cell phone form that both you and your child will need to sign.**

**Focus Days:** Throughout the year coincident with Jewish Holidays, our schedule of classes and curriculum will be altered slightly from the regular days to allow us to focus on the upcoming holiday. On occasion, you may be asked to send it food or craft related items with your children to support our learning and celebration of the holiday. Our focus on holiday learning will include study of Hebrew words and phrases associated with the holiday, study of the historical basis of the holiday and participation in songs and prayers related to the holiday celebration. While we will definitely spend some time making crafts and sometimes eating as we learn and celebrate, please do not assume that these are "off" days and keep your child home as they will miss critical learning and background related to the particular holiday that they will not get during the rest of the school year. There will be regular classes held for all Focus Days indicated on the calendar. The exception to this is the "Purim Carnival" and the "Chanukah Party".

**Homework:** On occasion your child will be given homework to help reinforce what they have learned in school or to help prepare them for the next week's lessons. It is important for you to ensure that your child completes this homework so that they will be prepared to go on to the next class. If your child will not be at the following week's class, please be sure to have them complete the homework and hand in any worksheets (if applicable) when they return to school to insure that they get credited for completion. If you need any assistance in helping your child complete the homework, please feel free to contact the Principal.

**Parent Participation In/Outside the Classroom:** Please encourage your child to talk about the day's lessons while they are still fresh in their mind. This will help reinforce what was learned and provide your child an opportunity to discuss any homework they may have for the following week. If you would like to see the curriculum or a particular day's lessons at any time, please feel free to contact the Principal. You may also feel free to come into school and sit in on any lesson at any time.

We understand that we all have changing schedules, so to help accommodate teachers that may need the day off we are looking for a list of willing substitutes. If you would like to be added to this list, please see the Principal. We will provide as much notice as possible to our substitute teachers and will also provide you with the lessons so that you can prepare in advance if needed. If you are able and willing to teach or substitute teach Hebrew lessons, please let us specifically know that you are okay with Hebrew lessons.

We also require at least one parent volunteer each Sunday that school is in session. As a parent volunteer, you may be asked to help with crafts, serve food, work with the children during a lesson (you do NOT need to read Hebrew to do this), lead a Parshah play, lead the children in singing songs or some other activity. All parents with children registered in Hebrew School are required to help at least one Sunday during the year. A calendar will be posted near the sign in/out sheet. Please add your name to an available date.

**Attendance at Services:** To reinforce what is learned in the classroom, both for the weekly Torah Portion (Parshah) and for the prayers that the children are learning, it is required that your child attend at least five (5) Friday evening services. The children earn points when they attend services and additional points when they help lead Hebrew Prayers during a designated "Children's Service" or "Tot Shabbat". In addition, for those children that will making their Bar/Bat Mitzvah within two years, there are additional service participation requirements in order to successfully complete the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. The requirements specific for Bar/Bat Mitzvah are coordinated with the Rabbi, the Head of the Religious Committee and the Hebrew School Principal and are documented separately.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah:** Enrollment and active participation in Hebrew School is mandatory for those students in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Additional requirements for Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are coordinated with the Rabbi, the Head of the Religious Committee and the Hebrew School Principal and are documented separately.

**Conduct:** All Hebrew School students, teachers, members of staff and parent volunteers are expected to act in a manner that is respectful and courteous to all persons attending, participating in or volunteering while Hebrew School is in session. The parent or guardian of any student that is unwilling or unable to conduct themselves in a respectful manner will be notified either orally or in writing as warranted. Any teacher, member of staff or parent volunteer that is unwilling or unable to conduct themselves in a respectful manner will be asked to meet with the Principal and Beth Israel Synagogue President for further action. Students may earn points for exceptionally respectful or helpful behavior.

**Point Reward System:** The student point reward system is intended to reward those students who attend and participate in Hebrew School activities, attend and participate in Friday night, Saturday morning and Holiday services, add Hebrew vocabulary words to their personal "Word Bank", complete and turn in homework assignments, perform Mitzvot in the community and for other actions and events as recommended by the Hebrew School Staff. As students reach certain point "goals", they will be eligible for individual rewards and as a whole grade level of students reaches a point goal, they will be eligible to participate in a special event such as kids movie day or party (outside of regular class time). More information will be provided separately.

**Tzedakah:** Tzedakah (charity) is a concept, which is basic to Judaism. Our school attempts to develop a commitment among our students to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies a day to charity. Students are encouraged to bring a coin for Tzedakah each Sunday.

# **bethisraelhebrewschool**



## **registration form**

**2011-2012 school year**

**NOTE: Please fill out one form for each student you are registering. A completed form must be on file prior to the first day the student will attend school. A \$25 registration fee must accompany this form unless the tuition is paid in full at the time of registration.**

**Student Information:**  **Returning Student**  **New Student (check one)**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall of 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Student's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Will your child become Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the next two years? Y / N

If yes, expected month and year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent/Guardian Information:**

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information:**

Contact #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Children will ONLY be released to those persons indicated on this registration form as an Emergency Contact or to those persons indicated in writing to Beth Israel Hebrew School as an adult authorized to pick up your child.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conditions of Enrollment:**

1. This form must be filled out in full and signed.
2. Every step is taken to ensure the safety and health of each student. In the event of an emergency and/or the need for special medical treatment, parents will be notified immediately. If the parent or secondary contacts cannot be reached, permission is given to Beth Israel Hebrew School to take whatever steps necessary to ensure the safety and health of each student.
3. I give my child permission to attend the Beth Israel Hebrew School Program. I hereby release and hold harmless Beth Israel Hebrew School and its staff, Beth Israel Synagogue and its Board of and from any and all present and future claims of any kind or nature arising from my child's attendance at Beth Israel Hebrew School and participation in any of its programs, activities, and/or use of its facilities. I agree to allow my child to participate in all activities unless I advise Beth Israel Hebrew School in writing.
4. I understand that my child must remain on Synagogue property from the time they arrive through their scheduled academic program unless they are part of an authorized, chaperoned activity. Permission to attend those activities will be given separately and in writing for each planned activity.
5. I have read, understood and agree to the above conditions of enrollment and confirm the truth and accuracy of all information provided in this application form.
6. I have enclosed either the \$25 registration fee or tuition payment in full with this registration form. I understand that the \$25 registration fee will be applied toward my child's tuition.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student & Parent Handbook Acknowledgement:**

I have read, understood and agree to the contents of the student and parent handbook for the 2011-2012 academic year. I acknowledge the new policies that include school start time, the dress code, conduct code, toy, electronic game and cell phone code and the need to sign my child in/out of school when school is in session.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Beth Israel Hebrew School Directory and Email Information Release:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Beth Israel Hebrew School to publish our family's names, children's names, our home address, phone numbers and email address in the 2011 – 2012 Beth Israel Hebrew School Family Directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize only limited personal information to be included in the 2011 – 2012 Beth Israel Hebrew School Family Directory. **Please include ONLY the following information:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not authorize use of our family's personal information for the 2011 - 2012 Beth Israel Hebrew School Family Directory.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Photographic Image and Interview Release:**

**I hereby grant Beth Israel Hebrew School permission to use my child's likeness in a photograph or quotation in any and all of its publications, including website entries. Note that children's full names will NEVER be used in any publication. Only first names will be used unless I notify Beth Israel Hebrew School in writing otherwise.**

I am 21 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name and/or on behalf of my child or minor over which I have legal guardianship. I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Medical Release Information:**

I (we) hereby give consent to the Principal of Beth Israel Hebrew School, or person designated, to make available to my child \_\_\_\_\_ professional emergency medical care when such care is indicated.

It is understood that a conscientious effort will be made to notify my spouse, me or the designated emergency contacts before action is taken. However, in the event that this is not possible, I give permission for my child to receive proper medical care by any doctor, nurse, paramedic or member of a medical staff of a hospital licensed by the State of Maryland.

This is to certify that my child is in good physical health and that he/she has permission to participate in all activities that are part of the Beth Israel Hebrew School Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If medical care is required, the following information will be provided to appropriate medical personnel.

Please note all of your child's allergies including food and medicine related:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please note all medication that your child takes on a regular basis:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Medical Release Information (con't):**

My child has a:

Hearing problem: Y / N

Vision problem: Y / N

Asthma: Y / N

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note below any other information about your child you would like provided to medical personnel in your absence:

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# **bethisraelhebrewschool**

## **parent questionnaire**

**2011-2012 school year**



**NOTE: Please fill out one form for each student you are registering.**

**Student Information:**     **Returning Student**     **New Student**    **(check one)**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall of 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F

Student's Hebrew Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Will your child become Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the next two years? Y / N

If yes, expected month and year of Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Information About Your Child:**

How would you describe your child?

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What are his/her academic strengths? (What does he/she like to learn? What are his/her favorite subjects?)

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What should we know about your child to effectively teach him/her?

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Do you think your child learns better through: (Circle One)

Hearing

Seeing

Experimenting

Has your child had any special education classes? Y / N

If yes, please explain:

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Does your child require any special accommodations while in school? Y / N

If yes, please explain:

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 – 5 where 5 is a complete understanding of the topic, 3 is a basic understanding and 1 is no understanding of the topic at all, please rate your child on the following (place a check in the box):

	5	4	3	2	1
Recognizes Aleph-Bet on Sight					
Names, reads and writes all Hebrew letters and vowels					
Combines letter and vowel sounds correctly for new words					
Reads fluidly in Hebrew					
Reads and chants blessings and prayers for Friday night services					
Reads and chants blessings and prayers for Saturday morning services					
Reads and chants blessings and prayers for High Holiday services					
Reads blessings for and leads rituals for Shabbat (candle lighting, etc.)					
Reads blessings for and lead rituals for holidays such as Chanukah and Purim					
Describes Life cycle events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, baby naming					
Reads and chants blessings over wine and challah					
Reads and chant blessings over other foods					

What are your goals for your child in Hebrew School? (Reading Hebrew, etc.)

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What are your expectations of Beth Israel Hebrew School?

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Please provide any other information you feel would be helpful in regards to your child's participation in Beth Israel Hebrew School.

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