



HANDBOOK and CURRICULUM GUIDE
2014-2015 ~ 5775

IRVING L. WEINER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
TEMPLE OR ELOHIM

18 Tobie Lane, Jericho, NY 11753
Tel: (516) 433-9888

[Temple Or Elohim - Jericho, NY](#)

Rabbi Harvey Abramowitz, ext. 11
Cantor David Katz, ext. 12

Director of Education ~ Deborah E. Tract, ext. 15
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Goldie – School Office, ext. 14
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Religious School Committee Chairpersons:
Korri Frampton
Jill Karp

Mission Statement

The Irving L. Weiner Religious School – Working within a creative learning environment, we strive to make Hebrew, Holidays and History accessible and meaningful to every student and every family so that Judaism is not merely a classroom achievement, it's a foundation for lifelong identity.

“Al shlosa divarim ha-olam omeid:
Al ha-Torah, v'al ha-avodah, v'al gimilut chasadim”

“Upon three things the world stands: upon Torah, and upon
Prayer and upon acts of loving kindness.”
-Pirke Avot

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Rabbi Abramowitz, Cantor Katz, and the staff of Temple Or Elohim, I would like to extend to you and your children a warm welcome to the Irving L. Weiner Religious School. As we begin a new and exciting journey in preparing our students for participation in Reform Jewish life, it is my belief that we must accomplish our goals through a close relationship between school and home. Your direct participation and involvement in your child's learning is encouraged during his/her Religious School years with us. Making your child's Jewish education a priority is essential; it is vital that children take the time to review all classroom work at home. Please take the time to discuss with your child the classroom curriculum and the lessons that are taught. Your involvement is appreciated and is considered an enhancing factor in being able to achieve a positive outcome in your child's education.

The Religious School at Temple Or Elohim seeks to pave the way for future generations of Jewish children to become committed and to feel a sense of Jewish pride. We encourage each student to develop his/her own Jewish identity through lifelong Jewish learning, Youth Groups, hands on learning experiences and ongoing Mitzvah projects.

It is my pleasure and my privilege to work with your family and to ensure that you receive the very best in Jewish education. If at any time throughout the year you have a concern, please make an appointment to meet with me. Your feedback is valuable and vital for the success of your children's education. May the 2014-2015, 5774- 5775 school year be a wonderful year for all of you.

L'Shalom
Deborah E. Tract
Director of Education

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Please help us to achieve our goal of giving your child(ren) and your family a complete Jewish educational experience. Religious school is a partnership: we have your children for a few hours each week; you *live* with them. We teach them the principles in school; you have the opportunity to implement these practices at home. Judaism is not a classroom experience; it's a way of life. Here are some guidelines to help accomplish these goals:

Properly prepare your child(ren): S/he must have a book bag specifically dedicated to Religious School containing her/his books and several pens/pencils; s/he must bring it to school every day.

Attendance: Good attendance is important to the progress of our students in their Judaic and Hebrew Studies. Please support the work of our school by ensuring that students attend class regularly, and on time. If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office at (516) 433-9888 ext. 14 and leave a message.

Lateness and/or early dismissal are disruptive to students. If you need to pick up your child early or drop them off late, you must come to the main office for assistance.

Beginning with grade 4 - students who are absent more than 5 times (2 lateness/early dismissals=1 absence) will be given make-up work to complete. Make-up work is not a punishment, but fulfillment of the course requirements.

Students will be evaluated for Hebrew competency 2-3 times per year (depending on grade). Parents will be provided a copy of the report, at which time if remediation is recommended; parents will be provided options to choose from that will prepare their child to advance to the next grade level. The final evaluation in May will determine if student met or exceeded our Temple Standards for Hebrew competency. (*Continued...*)

Communication: While there are scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences, (see page 13), you don't have to wait to have a conversation with your child's teacher, the Director of Education or the Religious School Committee Co-Presidents. If you have questions, comments or issues regarding any aspect of Religious School, please do not hesitate to call/email any of us – contact information is on the cover. Each week teachers will be emailing home the class newsletter detailing homework and upcoming events. There will also be a weekly Director of Education's e-mail to keep parents aware of what is happening in both the Religious School and Temple.

Temple Standards for Hebrew Competency
Achievement levels are set for each grade. Each student must master specific prayers (according to their grade level) as a requirement for promotion. To ascertain progress and readiness for promotion, students will be tested in reading prior to the end of the school year and parents will be notified when necessary. Practicing Hebrew aloud 15-20 minutes/day, 2-3 times/week are necessary to master and maintain appropriate reading skills. Transliterated copies of blessings are available for parents upon request.

Together as partners, we can create a nurturing Jewish Learning Environment and build a strong foundation for your whole family.

~ The Irving L. Weiner Religious School Staff

A Message from the Religious School Presidents...

Dear Students and Parents:

The new school year brings many new and exciting enhancements to our school! We have many fun events planned and hope you will be able to participate with your child(ren). The staff has been hard at work all summer and will be implementing changes to the school's policy and procedures developed over the summer. Please be aware of the following:

WE WILL NOT HAVE A PARKING LOT ATTENDANT AT DISMISSAL

For the safety of all students, please use extreme caution when picking up at dismissal. If you are coming in to the building to pick up your child, please park legally and come in. If not, please line your car up behind the gate; students will be dismissed as you pull up to the school's entrance. No student will be permitted to leave the building without an adult. Students will enter and exit the building only through the Religious School entrance that faces Fox Lane. Your cooperation is essential to the safety of all students. Additionally, when school is in session, if you wish to enter the building or must pick up your child early, please park legally and go directly to the main office for assistance. Students will not be allowed to meet you in the parking lot.

The school office must be notified in advance if someone other than who you specified on the registration card will be picking up your child; otherwise, s/he cannot be released.

Goldie is available in the main office, Monday through Thursday during the day as well as when school is in session. The Director of Education is available Mondays 1-6:30 PM, Tuesdays 2-6:30 PM and Thursdays 1-6:30 PM, as well as any morning for conferences and meetings. If you need an appointment outside of these times please contact Mrs. Tract directly. (Contact information on cover page.)

As always, cell phone use is not permitted in the building. If you and your child need to communicate during school hours, parents can call the main office or students may use one of the office phones to call you. If your child must carry a cell phone, all sounds must be off.

We wish you and your child much success for the New Year. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. Contact information can be found on the cover page.

~ The Irving L. Weiner Religious School Committee
Korri Frampton Chairperson

CODE OF CONDUCT

EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO LEARN. In an effort to maintain an atmosphere of "Shalom Bayit," (*Peace in the Home*) in all areas of the Temple, the following guidelines have been developed by the Religious School Committee, the Rabbi and the Director of Education regarding appropriate classroom behavior, as well as behavior throughout the entire Temple:

1. If a child is disruptive, the teacher will do everything he/she can to help the child regain control of his/her behavior and to remain in the classroom. The teacher will contact student's parents.

2. If the child continues to be disruptive and does not respond to the teacher's requests for appropriate behavior, the child is sent to the Director of Education's office. Where possible, after a discussion with the Director of Education, the student will be returned to the classroom. If not, classwork must be assigned by the teacher to be completed and handed in at period's end. The teacher will contact student's parents

3. If a child is disruptive a third time, the child will be sent to the Director of Education's Office. The parents will be called to pick up their child. Additionally, a meeting with the Rabbi, student, parent, teacher, chairs of the Religious School Committee and the Director of Education will be convened. At this meeting, all will discuss how unacceptable behavior must change and the future of the child's attendance in Religious School will be discussed. **If the student is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidate and a suspension occurs, this will impact/delay their tutorials and Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates.**

Under NO circumstance, will a child be allowed to stay in the building if he/she is a danger to him/her self or to others! If this situation happens in the classroom, then the child will be escorted immediately to the office or the Director of Education will go to the classroom to attend to the situation. The parents will be called to pick up their child immediately. The student's future behavior will be monitored and if further action by the school is warranted, further discussions with the Rabbi, Religious School Committee Chairs, Director of Education, teacher, parent and student will take place to determine the student's future in the Religious School.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

GUM CHEWING AND CELL PHONE USE ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE BUILDING. IF A STUDENT IS FOUND USING A CELL PHONE, THE PHONE WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE OFFICE AND A PARENT OR CAREGIVER WILL HAVE TO PICK IT UP.

DRESS CODE IN SCHOOL

We expect that the clothing worn in our school will be in accordance with those guidelines established by other educational institutions.

SHORT-SHORTS, TANK TOPS AND BARE MIDRIFTS ARE NOT PROPER ATTIRE FOR A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.

DRESS CODE ON BIMA

Students must be dressed appropriately when on the Bima.

NO JEANS, SWEATPANTS, T-SHIRTS, SNEAKERS OR FLIP-FLOPS.

HOMEWORK

Homework is assigned in small amounts to maintain continuity. Students must practice Hebrew reading aloud for a minimum of 15-20 minutes/day, 2-3 times a week and/or complete assigned work on the Online Learning Center.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Written Progress Reports will be sent home after the first half of the year, and again at the end of the year. The number of services on record in the office will appear on the first Progress Report. Pre-B'nai Mitzvah students in grades 7 and 8 should have **at least 7 services** mid January 2015.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held on January 20, 2015 between the hours of 4:30 and 6:30 PM.

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Grades 3-6 must accumulate at least **5 credits** over the school year (September-May).

Grades 7 and 8 (Pre-B'nai Mitzvah) must accumulate **10 credits**; (a minimum of 6 must be at Temple Or Elohim). These are to be completed within the year of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Children: Be sure to sign the attendance sheet at **ALL Services**

Parents: Please keep a record of your child(ren)'s attendance. Email Goldie at school@Templeorlohim.com, send in a note or call stating the date and place of service.

SNOW CANCELLATION

In general, if the Jericho Public Schools are closed or cancel after school activities, we will follow their decisions.

In the event of the possible closing of school due to inclement weather or any other emergency, information about the closing can be found on WKJY 98.3 FM, WHLI 1100 AM, B103 (103.1), 94.3 WMJC, WRCN 103.9, Love 96.1 or on Cable NEWS 12 or online at News12.com. In addition, announcements will be made in Public Schools when possible. Additionally, as long as there is power and email, families will also receive an email informing them about the closing. Parents can also call the school office for a recorded message: (516) 433-9888 ext. 15.

STUDENTS, TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS

High school students are eligible to assist in the school on a voluntary basis under the direction of the Director of Education. We also welcome any parent to assist in our school. We especially seek those who can share talents such as art, cooking, dance, calligraphy, Hebrew tutoring, musical accompaniment, etc. Call us with your suggestions!

TZEDAKAH

Students are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the school's Tzedakah Fund during the first period of each session. The amount is not important; what is important is that students are made aware of their continuing responsibility to others who are less fortunate. **NEW -In addition, healthy snacks will be available for purchase before the beginning of each school day. A portion of the profits will be used towards the School's Tzedakah fund.**

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR PROMOTION

1. Good attendance and behavior record.
2. Completion of homework assignments during the course of the year; mastery of grade-level Hebrew and Judaica studies and active class participation. In case of major illness, student must make up work to the satisfaction of the teacher and the Director of Education.
3. The service credit requirement of 5 services for grades 3-6 for the school year (September-May) or 10 for Grades 7 & 8 pre-B'nai Mitzvah **MUST BE FULFILLED!**
4. Shabbat morning Bar/Bat Mitzvah candidates must attend **2** services (out of a total of **10**) at our Temple on Saturday mornings **before** starting lessons with the Cantor.
5. Students, who will be having a Twilight Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, must attend **1** Twilight services **before** starting Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons with the Cantor. Students in grade 8 who have had their Bar/Bat Mitzvah and students in grades 9 and 10 are encouraged to attend services regularly, but are not required to do so.
6. **All academic work, service requirements and make-up work must be completed and accepted by the Director of Education before the last week in June in order for the student to be eligible for promotion.**
7. The Director of Education, the Rabbi and the Religious School Committee will evaluate the circumstances of any student who does not meet grade-level requirements and recommend appropriate procedures to be followed.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

At age thirteen, boys and girls who have fulfilled all Temple and Religious School requirements, are privileged to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Each student must:

1. Have attended Religious School since third grade. If this is not the case each student's situation will be evaluated individually by the Director of Education, Rabbi and/or Cantor;
2. Achieve satisfactory grades, possess a good attendance and behavior record (See Code of Conduct);
3. *Fulfill* the service requirements: for grades 7 and 8-Pre-B'nai Mitzvah--the Temple and Religious School requires a minimum of **10** credits for the school year. There are no mandatory services for post B'nai Mitzvah 8th grade students. *NOTE: If your child has a Twilight Bar/Bat Mitzvah, he/she must attend a minimum of one (1) Twilight services as part of the required 10.*
4. Prepare and deliver a brief D'Var Torah, which is a discussion and summary of the Torah (or Haftarah) portion including its meaning and relevance to life today. Two or three months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the student will be contacted and assisted in the preparation of his/her D'Var Torah. There will be four or five half-hour meetings to be scheduled before or after Religious School at a mutually convenient time.
5. Work with the Cantor on the Torah portion in sessions scheduled at a mutually agreeable time. Tutorials will begin approximately six months prior to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Regular and prompt attendance is expected, as is full preparation for these sessions. B'nai Mitzvah candidates who are not prepared for more than 3 sessions in a row may have to hire a private tutor; the Bar/Bat Mitzvah could be postponed at the discretion of the Rabbi and Cantor.

If the Bar/Bat Mitzvah occurs during the 8th grade school year, the student **MUST attend 8th grade at least up until the time of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and hopefully through Confirmation.**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

This committee usually meets once a month at 7:30 PM throughout the year. The members are concerned with such diverse tasks as determination of general school policy, preparation of the school budget, and acting as liaison between parents and the Temple administration. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping shape the progress and policy of the Religious School. Even if you cannot attend meetings, there are many ways you can help. Contact Korri Frampton (516) 364-6511.

MEN'S CLUB/SISTERHOOD

Please consider joining one of these Temple organizations – help plan and run various social events. If interested, call Temple office: (516) 433-9888 ext 14.

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNERS AND SERVICES

There are numerous opportunities during the school year to take part in a wonderful, delicious, *haimishe* Shabbat family dinner prior to student-led or special event services, or for a lovely Kiddush following Shabbat Morning services. All students attending their class service and dinner or brunch, will receive 2 service credits for that event.

Families are strongly encouraged to join us, not just for the service credits – but because these are festive, fun Shabbat gatherings.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S JEWISH EDUCATION?

- Support the importance of Religious/Hebrew School in your child's life
- Celebrate Shabbat (guaranteed quality time!) in your home and/or Temple
- Talk about God in your life
- Celebrate the Jewish holidays in your home
- Attend festival and Shabbat services with your child
- Sing Jewish songs, listen to Jewish music
- Prepare a Jewish dish or meal for a Jewish holiday, taste different Jewish foods
- Start and maintain a Jewish library, visit the multitude of Jewish oriented websites
- Surf the internet together for fun websites of Jewish interest
- Visit a Jewish Museum, display Jewish Art, make your own Jewish art
- Talk about positive Jewish role models
- Tell your child about his/her family and his/her ancestors
- Discuss a topic from a Jewish point of view
- Talk about Jewish current events, here in the United States, Israel and around the world
- Send your child to a Jewish camp. There are day camps on Long Island and sleep-away camps nearby.
- Ask in the School Office about these URJ camps– Eisner, Crane Lake, Kutz...Each a Very Cool, Very Jewish Place to Be
- Plan a family trip to Israel
- Participate together in a family Mitzvah project
- Show your child that Judaism is important to you