



**Congregation Beth Yam**  
**Religious School Parent Handbook**  
**2022-23**

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June 2022

**Rabbi:**

Brad L. Bloom

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Ed Fine  
Janice Fradkin  
David Katz  
Jeremy Press  
Felicia Roth

**Directors:**

Marida Bruggeman  
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Patricia Levitt  
Doug Luba  
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Howard Rothchild  
Kim Shapiro

Robin Krumholz,  
Sisterhood President,  
ex officio

TBD  
Men's Club President,  
ex officio

**Immediate Past**

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Candy Solomon

**Past Presidents:**

Judy Bluestone  
Stanton Bluestone  
Irwin (Ted) David  
Scottie Davis  
Paula Flink\*  
Linda Harrison  
Jane Joseph  
Donald Kahaner  
Seymour Lash\*  
Bernice Lewin\*  
Irwin Lindenbaum\*  
Pennie Meiselman  
Hank Noble  
Bert Reinhold\*  
Jack Resnick  
Twyla Sable  
Howard Sherman\*  
Robert Stone  
Michael Weingarten

**Honorary Director:**

Dan Caplan\*

\* Deceased

Dear Parents,

I look forward to welcoming your family to another exciting year at Congregation Beth Yam Religious School.

Although your children learn a great deal about Judaism in Religious School, the home must be an integral part of their Jewish learning experience. It is in the home where the rituals they learn about are carried out and where they see what is important from a Jewish point of view. You have the ability to help us instill in your children a love of Judaism, Israel, and the Jewish people, by your own example. In this way, we will be assured that when our children grow up, they will be committed and involved Jews.

May this year be a successful one for your children and for the Congregation Beth Yam community.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Brad L. Bloom

Each child brings their own blessing into the world.

~ Talmud

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# Congregation Beth Yam Religious School



June 2022

Dear Religious School Families,

Shalom!

We want to welcome you aboard as an integral part of our Religious School Community. Your awareness and comfort for what we teach is important to our whole faculty team! We are proud that you have chosen to make Judaic Studies a priority for your children, and we believe it is an honor and a privilege for you to entrust your children into our hands.

Within this Handbook you will find most of the answers you seek about our school. It has explanations, rules, and procedures and will address many of your questions and concerns. I urge you to read through it all, and review it with your children as needed. Please remember that this handbook is designed to be used only as a guide. Special circumstances are always handled on an individual basis. **If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with me, or your child's teacher.**

We look forward to a great year at CBY filled with exciting programs both new and old. We have wonderful parent volunteers that join us to ensure that your children develop their Judaic skills in a safe and fun environment. **If you are interested in getting involved as a Parent Volunteer, please contact our religious school chair, Felicia Roth.** It's never too late to get involved! We depend on your help to make these events enjoyable for our students. Family participation sends a message to them that will resonate for years to come. I thank you in advance for your continued support in our educational activities.

We also want to thank all that have provided ideas and assistance into the planning of our evolving curriculum, as well as our programs and activities.

Sincerely,

Valerie Seldes, M.Ed  
Director of Jewish Youth Education

4501 Meeting Street • Hilton Head, SC 29926  
(843) 689-2178  
[school.cby@gmail.com](mailto:school.cby@gmail.com)  
[www.bethyam.org](http://www.bethyam.org)

## General Schedule of Classes

**\*Religious School Classes      Sunday 9am – 12pm**

**\*Boker Tov Service (a required part of our school day, but all are welcome to attend)      Sunday 11:15am**

**Kita Gan** (Pre-School) meet approximately 2 Sundays/month

**Note:** *Preschool children must be 3 years Old by Sept 1, 2022 – no exceptions*

**Aleph** (Grades K & 1) meet most Sundays

**Bet** (Grades 2 & 3) meet most Sundays

**Gimel** (Grades 4 & 5) meet most Sundays, and Hebrew School Classes

**Dalet** (Grades 6 – Pre Bnai Mitzvah year) meet most Sundays

**Note:** *Pre-Bnai Mitzvah students will also have an assigned tutor for Torah and Haftorah study. Tutoring sessions are arranged independently with tutor at mutually convenient times.*

**MADRICHIM PROJECT** (following 2 years in Dalet- mostly 8<sup>th</sup> graders)- this is a unique and customized program that meets the individual needs of our late middle school students

**LISHMAH** (Post Bnai Mitzvah through Grade 12) meet 1 or 2 Sundays a month

**Youth Group** (age 10 +) meets based on their own scheduled activities

**\*\*For specific schedule dates, please check the Religious School calendar and check with our Director of Education. Dates, times, and scheduled events may shift due to unforeseen circumstances. Please always check for the most up to date information. \*\***



# Congregation Beth Yam Religious School



## **CBY Religious School Tuition Rates 2022-23**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Tuition</b>
Kita Gan	\$ 300
Aleph	\$ 510
Bet	\$ 510
Gimel	\$ 510
Dalet	\$ 510
Madrichim Project	\$ 300
Lishmah	\$ 300
<b>+ Hebrew Class</b>	<b>\$ 340</b>
<b>+ Youth Group Dues</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

Note that discounts will apply when enrolling 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or more children in the same family.

This will be calculated at the time of Registration.

You can register for enrollment online, at <http://www.bethyam.org/youth-education>  
or with a paper application available in the CBY Office.

**Tuition is payable online at the time of Registration, or by mailing a check to CBY.**

**All families are expected to pay tuition before the first day of classes.**

Also note that our congregation is committed to offer Religious School education to all Jewish children whose parents are members of the congregation.

It is CBY policy that no child will be turned away for financial hardship!

Please speak directly with the CBY Treasurer  
for any financial considerations or alternate payment plans.

***The Director of Jewish Youth Education is not able to make, nor aware of any tuition adjustments.***

# **Congregation Beth Yam**

## **Religious School Philosophy**

Congregation Beth Yam Religious School is a *Beit Mikdash*, a sanctuary, as well as a *Beit Midrash*, a house of study. Our children must know that they are in a safe environment to study, worship, learn, and play. As a Jewish school, our environment adheres to the behavioral values of our tradition, known as *Derech Eretz*.

We believe that the purpose of religious school education is to develop students' knowledge, skills and character. We want our students to develop understanding of and appreciation for their Jewish heritage. We want our students to have the ability to participate actively in temple and home Jewish rituals. We want our students to be ethical, socially responsible members of the Jewish community.

We believe in a comprehensive, sequential curriculum taught by devoted, caring, and committed teachers. At the same time, we believe that a creative atmosphere infused with *ruach* (spirit) will stimulate students' interest and promote personal connections with learning.

We believe in a teaching-learning process that varies and differentiates instruction to meet the needs of learners with diverse learning styles, multiple intelligence, and varying family backgrounds. Providing enrichment beyond the classroom to reinforce the curriculum is a promise we make to all of our students.

We believe that students' attendance at Shabbat services with their families builds a lasting experience for all involved and reinforces what the students are learning in the classroom.

We believe that successful accomplishments of our goals and objectives require a partnership between students, teachers, and parents. Only through collaboration can we bring all children to develop a deep personal Jewish identity, to experience pride and joy in their Jewishness, and to commit themselves to lifelong learning and growth.

# **General Curriculum Goals**

## **A Description of the Jewish Content and Programs**

*A child's Jewish education involves more than a student "feeling Jewish." Learning to be a Jew means becoming familiar with a body of knowledge and the practices of observance and tradition. To accomplish this goal, the CBY Religious School, its teachers, Director and Rabbi have provided this information below for you to have a clear understanding of what is presented to your children in their classrooms and through a hands-on approach to Judaism.*

- 1. Bible** - Students cannot begin to understand Judaism without a study of its sources. In the lower grades, stories are taught and the students learn moral and ethical tales of the rabbis who crystallized the Jewish tradition. In the upper grades, they study the Torah in more detail.
  
- 2. Hebrew** - The Hebrew language is one of the strongest links that joins the Jewish people to its past and to the present work Jewish community. There are a variety of approaches to teaching Hebrew in a Religious School. Our goal is to give each student enough Hebrew so that he or she will be able to use it with comfort and familiarity in temple life and home rituals. Stress is placed upon reading fluency and developing a vocabulary which is relevant to the temple and its service. Emphasis is on the vocabulary of religious life. The stress is not on conversational Hebrew. Students will learn to read and sing the prayers used in Shabbat services. The meanings of the prayers are also taught throughout the entire religious school curriculum. Attention is given to holiday prayers and home rituals. Students will participate in our Boker Tov Sunday morning service which is designed for them.
  
- 3. Holidays** - All students will learn about Jewish holidays and observances through the use of curriculum materials which are integrated in their study of mitzvot and prayer. Some life cycle events will also be included in this learning experience.
  
- 4. Gemilut Chasadim** (Acts of Loving Kindness) - This part of our curriculum is one of our primary focus areas. Character education is taught in all grades. The goal is to educate and guide students into action through *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world).
  
- 5. Other Aspects of the Curriculum** - Each class will have many opportunities to express themselves through art, music, crafts and special events. Our school library and parent resource library are filled with exciting and meaningful books, puzzles, games and more for everyone's use. Please encourage your child to take an item home to share with the family. The sign out sheet is on the library shelf in the hallway and must be completed by a parent.

# Overview of Curriculum by Grade

Our curriculum is based on the goals of Congregation Beth Yam. As a Reform Religious School we are firmly rooted in Jewish tradition. We are committed to guiding students on a lifelong journey to explore their Jewish identities and find meaningful ways to bring Judaism into contemporary life. We have a spiraling curriculum allowing multiple topics to “spiral” through the grades, growing in complexity as the students mature.

## Grades K-3

Students in Kita Gan (*pre-school*), Alef (*K-1*), and Bet (*2-3*) begin to develop skills and awareness of the holiday cycle, synagogue ritual, Jewish values and ethics, Torah study, and begin a program of basic Hebrew reading skills.

## Grades 4-5

Students in the Gimel class develop functional Hebrew reading skills, become conversant with the order of the worship service and the meaning of prayers, study lifecycle events, explore our Jewish history, celebrate holidays, learn about the land of Israel and its culture, read selections of the Bible, and grapple with ethical dilemmas in a Jewish context. Students explore this in an integrated Hebrew and Judaica Studies Curriculum, taught both in Sunday and in additional Hebrew School classes of Religious School.

## Grades 6-8

Middle School students focus on their identity and confidence and what it means to be a Jew in the world in which we live. This class is age-appropriately designed specifically to encourage, maintain, and apply the skills previously acquired. Together as a learning community of adolescents, they will explore the challenges that Jews have faced throughout history and today, and the coping skills applied by our heroes, as well as among each other. This class includes more in-depth stories, translated liturgy, introspection and discussion. Knowledge of Hebrew, though an advantage, is not necessary for participation in this class.

Hebrew skills will continue to be developed for middle school students in our afternoon Hebrew classes. Continued attendance in Hebrew class is expected for middle school students until they become a B’nai Mitzvah.

Students in Dalet Class (*pre-B’nai Mitzvah*) will be given their individual Haftarah and Torah portions and will hone their skills in reading blessings and prayers. The focus will be to develop greater understanding of the responsibility and the meaning of becoming a B’nai Mitzvah. This class is designed to prepare students for studying with their assigned tutors.

## Grades 9-12

Students in High School, as young adults, will start building a deeper connection with the Rabbi, and with Judaism as they continue to develop their Jewish identity. We will engage our students by using different topics and a variety of methods such as discussions, and debates about Jewish identity, Jewish thought and Jewish values.



# Overview of Programming

## **T'filah (prayer)**

Prayer reading and comprehension using decoding skills is a major focus in the classroom, but is also applied in practice. Learning aids and games are used in class for the acquisition and practice of these skills, and then applied in the sanctuary, school-wide during our Boker Tov Service, before the conclusion of the Sunday School day. Our Boker Tov services are held in the Sanctuary, such that children become familiar with the melodies and the flow of the service, and experience the synagogue as a house of prayer.

## **Music**

It is hard to imagine our rich and cultural heritage without music. This form of expression is as ancient as mankind. Our goal is to enrich the formal learning process by including music, both liturgical and instructional, as part of the learning experience. The songs and melodies compliment all aspects of our curriculum. Additionally, a volunteer children's choir will perform special holiday related music programs at community Shabbat Services.

## **Arts and Crafts**

Art helps students to better grasp the concepts and ideas they learn and it inspires a heightened awareness of Jewish artistic expression. Through various media and techniques, students create their own works of Jewish art in connection with their grade's studies.

## **Technology**

We are experiencing a revolutionary era in all aspects of Jewish education. Congregation Beth Yam has transitioned into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by providing a computer in each classroom and implementing new and modern learning tools and methods. This approach is reinforced in an old statement made by King Solomon who said: "Educate a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs, 22:6). At CBY Religious School, we believe that Jewish education needs to be updated continuously with the essential goal of bridging the gap between our old traditions and modern youth culture. Using computer and multi-media as an integral part of the Religious School curriculum helps us create a generation of students who are engaged in learning about their Jewish heritage and traditions.

Today, many computer software programs exist that assist students with improving their Hebrew reading skills, learning about Israeli culture, history and society, and exploring Jewish heritage and traditions. The internet is host to hundreds of websites which may serve as supplementary resources (informative and interactive) to any component of our Religious School curriculum. The combination of sound, imagery and three-dimensional technologies keeps children's attention and connects them with the content. Every student (grades K-12) will have the opportunity to use the computers under the strict supervision of a teacher. Our computers have updated virus protection, parental controls, and passwords.



## **Teaching Hebrew by Ability Level**

**(For Students going into Bet, Gimel, or Dalet)**

**Every student will be assessed in Hebrew skills and assigned to one a group. Assessments will be completed individually over the course of the first few weeks of Sunday school.**

On Sunday mornings students will be “re-grouped” for a 45 minute Hebrew lesson at their ability level.

**GOAL:** By grouping students with similar capability into the same classroom, we will:

- Enable faculty to design focused, more effective lessons targeted to meet student needs
- Support all students to experience greater success, and higher self-esteem
- Facilitate a less-intimidating pathway for students that are new to Religious School
- Allow some students to accelerate/enrich their learning beyond minimum expectations

### **The groupings are as follows:**

**Group 1:** entry level for students that are still working on letter recognition and pronunciation.

**Group 2:** for students that have mastered pronouncing syllables, and are working on reading familiar words from holiday vocabulary, as well as simple blessings and prayers.

**Group 3:** for students that have mastered reading basic familiar phrases, and are ready to study more complex liturgical readings, and develop some conversational Hebrew vocabulary. This includes pre Bnai Mitzvah preparation to develop fluency with the Shabbat Evening and Morning Services.

**Students must complete this level, before they are qualified to set a date for B’nai Mitzvah.**

**Religious Studies will be taught in classes based on secular grade level.**

**Students in Kita Gan and Aleph classes WILL NOT be grouped for Hebrew lessons.**

(We recognize that our youngest classes need to remain as an intact, age-based learning community.)

# Important Information and Expectations for Parents and Students

While some of the information below pertains primarily to parents, we ask that you share all information for students with them, before the first day of Religious School.

**Attitude:** Students are expected to exhibit respect for the rights and dignity of fellow students, teachers, administrators and the synagogue building, for them in turn, to expect that their own rights and dignity will be respected. Students will be asked to sign a “Code of Conduct” statement acknowledging that they understand and accept responsibility for maintaining an appropriate attitude.

**Attendance:** Prompt and regular attendance and participation are key components for deriving the full benefit from Religious School, and insuring success for your children. However, if your child isn't feeling well, please do not send him or her to school where other children's health may be at risk.

Please have your children arrive promptly to be seated before class begins. If your child needs to leave early, you must come into the building and tell the teacher that you are taking the student. Please use restraint in determining what occasions necessitate early dismissal. If your child is going to be absent, please call or text the Director (516-816-0407) and she will inform the appropriate teacher. Please be in touch with your child's teacher in order for makeup work to be assigned. If there is going to be a long-term absence, please make arrangements with the teacher for a way that the student can catch up with the missed work. Please respect that when any child repeatedly misses classes, this poses a burden on not just that child, but on the teacher and the other students as well! The teacher is faced with having to decide whether to frustrate other students by re-teaching, or leave a gap in the understanding of that student. While we encourage students to ask questions, lack of understanding due to absence may need to go unaddressed.

**Boker Tov Service:** is Sunday morning from 11:15-12:00. Parents are expected to attend this service with their children. Please arrive by 11:10 and find your seat in the sanctuary. Students enter the sanctuary with their teachers and the service begins immediately. Your participation in this service supports your child's learning experience and provides you with additional information about what your children are learning and studying.

**Classroom Visits:** We are delighted to have you visit your student's class during the school year. However, to avoid unscheduled interruptions or other disruptions of the school routine, we require advance notification of a visit. To arrange such a visit, please call the school office to set up a specific time and date.

**Dismissal:** Our Religious School ends at noon on Sundays, after our Boker Tov Service. Hebrew School, for those enrolled, will end at 1:30pm. All students will be dismissed at the given time from the school entrance. Please bring your car around to the carpool line to pick up your child. Since safety is our first priority it is imperative that we see each child leaving, and that they leave with the appropriate adult. No child is ever allowed to walk through the driveway or the parking lot unattended. An adult will walk each child to the cars in the carpool line. If you are attending Boker Tov, you may pick up your child from the classroom, and walk them out yourself. Please do not take your child out without teacher acknowledgement!

**Discipline Procedure:** In the rare event that a student is unable to adhere to our expectations, the following steps will be taken:

1. The teacher will create an opportunity to speak quietly and privately to the student and record the inappropriate behavior.
2. If the problem reoccurs, the student will be escorted to the school office where the Director will speak to the student, focusing on what the appropriate behavior would be.
3. We would hope that steps 1 and 2 will prevent any further incidents from occurring, however, should issues persist, the Director or the teacher will contact the child's parents to discuss the inappropriate behavior and any further action.
4. If the offense involves physical or emotional harm or injury to persons or property, parents will be called immediately to pick up their child and schedule a conference.

**Dress Code:** We believe that the way we dress expresses our community standards and our self-esteem. Our school values respect for the Temple and its religious ideals. Because we worship on Sunday morning, we advise students to dress appropriately. Torn clothing, clothes exposing the midriff, muscle shirts and short-shorts are not appropriate.

**Effort:** Because education can only be successful with an adequate amount of effort, participation in class activities and completion of all assignments are expected of each student. Should a student fail to comply, parents will be requested to meet with the child's teacher and Director to discuss the issue.

**Food and Snacks:** It has become our practice to provide snacks for the children; brain food to keep them engaged in the learning environment. Snacks are provided during a brief recess on Sunday mornings, The snack usually consists of fruit and crackers. If your child has special dietary needs, please make sure that the Director and your child's teacher are made aware. Parent volunteers are always appreciated to help provide, prepare, serve, and clean up from snacks. Hebrew School students are expected to pack a dairy "kosher style" lunch (no meat). They will have time to eat between classes.

**Illness/Injury:** Please inform the Director of any medical information which may affect your child(ren) during Religious school. Also, be sure that emergency contact information remains updated. Should a child become ill during Religious School, the parents will be contacted and asked to pick up the child. Medication such as Tylenol or aspirin will not be given under any circumstances. A first aid kit is available in the school office. In fairness to all, please keep your child at home if he/she has signs of cold or other illness (such as fever, headache, nausea, etc.)

**Phones/Electronics:** **Cell phones and other electronic devices MUST be turned off during class time.** They may only be used for emergency purposes unless otherwise instructed by a teacher or the Director. Should a student not adhere to this policy, the device will be handed to the teacher or the Director until dismissal.

**Practice:** We understand that students have demanding schedules in their daily lives. However, if the goals of a quality Jewish education are to be achieved practice becomes a necessary component. We suggest students practice 10 minutes each day at home! This can easily be accomplished with flashcards, computer activities, classroom activity sheets, and various other tools. Our goal is to provide our students with every available outlet for success and confidence and we believe practice is the key to this outcome.

**Readiness for B'nai Mitzvah:** At Beth Yam we believe that becoming a B'nai Mitzvah is more than just a performance to be memorized. It is not a rite-of-passage to be granted at age thirteen. Readiness to begin preparation to become a B'nai Mitzvah, is based on attitude and competency; not just on age! It is a commitment made by the child, not the parent, to embrace their Jewish identity and participate as an adult member of the Jewish community. The event does not mark the end of a child's Judaic studies, but rather a testament from the Rabbi and other synagogue leaders that this child is ready to begin their study as an adult, and to be counted among adults in the community. We encourage that this commitment not be made until after the child has invested sufficient time to learn Hebrew as well as Judaic ethics and culture to demonstrate that they understand the significance of this step.

A child will only be assigned a date and the associated Torah portion for that date once the Rabbi, the Hebrew School Teacher, and the Director have sufficient evidence to believe that they are mature enough, and capable enough to begin that level of study. It is the policy of the Rabbi and the Ritual Committee of Congregation Bet Yam that under no circumstances will a child, male or female, be assigned a B'nai mitzvah date that occurs prior to their 13<sup>th</sup> Hebrew Birthdate. A Hebrew-English calendar conversion tool is available on line at [www.hebc.com/converter](http://www.hebc.com/converter).

**Special Needs:** In our ongoing effort to meet the needs of all the children and families who are part of our CBY community, we are continually expanding our educational program to accommodate the diverse learning needs of the congregation's children. If your child has any identified special needs, we ask that you inform the Director who will work with each family, in conjunction with our teachers, to determine the optimal learning path for your child.

**Tutoring:** Should your child require tutoring in order to maintain a grade-level placement or if your child missed enough classes to have fallen behind, we are fortunate to have members of our faculty and congregation who would be able to help. These tutors are paid directly by the family and fees do not process through the office. This situation relates only to the younger students and has no connection to Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring.

**Tzedakah:** Tzedakah (charitable giving) contributions are collected in each class every Sunday. The amount a child brings into the class is not important. It is important that the child know why donating money is important. We collect these contributions all year. At the end of the year, we spend a morning working on a Mitzvah Project chosen by the Director, Teachers and students, which involves donating our time and effort and dollars towards something for others less fortunate than us. The Tzedakah also helps to pay for supplies needed for the project. Children know that the project was a success because of their weekly contributions and hard work.

## Other Information for Parents

**Religious School Fees:** Congregation Beth Yam views the education of its students as a sacred responsibility and a privilege of temple membership. As such, congregational funds generously reduce the school fees from the actual costs of educating our children. The tuition and activities fees for your child are nominal and will vary by class. We also offer discounts for siblings. Fees are calculated during the registration process, and payable online, or by sending a check to CBY. Please help us maintain the high quality of our children's education by submitting all school fees by the registration deadline, unless prior arrangements have been made with the CBY Treasurer.

Please note the following CBY Policy 8.1.10 Tuition - CBY is committed to offer Religious School education to all Jewish children whose parent(s) or immediate family are members of the congregation. It is CBY policy that no child will be turned away for financial hardship. Parent(s) or immediate family members should communicate directly with the CBY Treasurer for any financial considerations or alternate payment plans. The Religious School Director of Jewish Youth Education is neither able to make nor aware of any tuition adjustments.

For tuition requirements pertaining to students of non-members, refer to policy 8.1.1.b.

All student's parent(s) or immediate family members are required to pay tuition prior to the beginning of the school year or make written and signed payment arrangements with the Treasurer. Should a family not comply with such written arrangements, the student(s) will not be entitled to matriculate after the winter break.

For families of a bnai mitzvah student, your financial responsibilities include:

1. You must be a resident of affiliate member and current in financial obligations to Congregation Beth Yam
2. You must provide all of the necessary expenses to properly prepare your child for his/her Bat/Bat Mitzvah experience
  - a. Tutors
  - b. Materials
  - c. **Facility fee of \$300:** \$150 of the \$300 is due at the time your child begins their bnai mitzvah training and their date is set. The remaining \$150 is due 90 days before the event.

**Camp Scholarship Programs:** There is scholarship money available through the Bellet Fund and the Sisterhood of CBY. If you are interested in sending your child to a Reform Jewish Camp, please contact the Director who will guide you through the process. Because camps tend to fill many of their spaces by October, your attention to consider camp should be made as soon as possible after school begins. Scholarships are generally considered in November or December of the current school year.

Please note the following CBY Policy 8.1.11 - Camp and Other Scholarships – To be eligible for receiving a CBY scholarship to attend camps or other sponsored events, a student's Religious School financial obligations must be paid in full or written and signed tuition payment arrangements with the Treasurer must be in full compliance.

**Communication:** School/Parent communication is a cornerstone of the learning experience. We strongly encourage you to communicate with the school faculty so that we can better serve our students. We use the following means to communicate with families:

1. School news and important updates are sent via e-mail and Facebook.
2. Occasionally letters from the Director, or a teacher will inform families of what will be studied as well as past and future special events, especially if these are optional, and require your permission to attend.
3. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for parents to participate in the school's programs. You will be informed of these via email, phone, and Facebook.
4. Evaluations detailing your child's progress will be prepared twice per year. We set aside a morning in January for you to receive the mid-year evaluation and have a chat with the teacher.
5. Stopping teachers in the hallway immediately before or after classes or in the parking lot is not conducive for a meaningful dialogue. Teachers will be happy to set aside time to meet with you privately and discuss any issues or concerns you might have.
6. Handouts about school programs and events may be given to your child at dismissal.
7. Experience has shown us that some families would rather not be called and would rather have a text sent. This is another way we hope to communicate more frequently with our Religious School families. Please be sure that the Director is aware of your preferred means of communication.
8. Our Religious School Facebook page is restricted for parents and faculty only. Please contact us if you would like to be added to the access list.

**Important Policies/Changes of Policies that are Important to note for our families:**

Replacement of Policy 8.1.1 Eligibility

Amended by the Board of Directors: June 10, 2019

Replaces Policy 8.1.1 Eligibility Adopted on: March 13, 2017

Policy:

1. Eligibility

a. Members - In accordance with Reform Jewish tradition, a child of either a Jewish mother or a Jewish father who is raised in the Jewish faith is considered to be Jewish. The Congregation Beth Yam Religious School is designed for the training of Jewish youth. Children of member families have the right to receive their

Jewish education in this school, subject to the discretion of the Rabbi and the Religious School Director of Jewish Youth Education.

Special family circumstances to override the above reside with the Rabbi and the Director of Jewish Youth Education.

b. Non-Members - Religious School is open to non-members' children, up to but

not including, Gimel Class at the actual cost of educating the child in the appropriate grade. (Currently, the tuition of members' children is supplemented from CBY operational funds.) At the point of entering Gimel Class, in order for the child to continue in Religious School, the parent(s) will need to join CBY as full members. In the event that there are multiple children in the family with one or more in grades below Gimel and one or more in grades Gimel or above, all the children may attend Religious School for one year with the family as non-members. If the parent(s) want to continue their children in Religious School, the parent(s) must join CBY with the rights and privileges of new members. The non-member parent(s) will be able to attend all non High Holy Days services, High Holy Day Family services, and any other Religious School events sponsored by the Religious School Committee. If they wish to attend other High Holy Day Services, other than the High Holy Day Family Services, they will have to purchase tickets at the current non-member price.

#### Replacement of Policy 8.1.10 Tuition

Amended by the Board of Directors: June 10, 2019

Replaces Policy 8.1.10 Tuition Adopted on: March 13, 2017

#### Policy:

10. Tuition - CBY is committed to offer Religious School education to all Jewish children whose parent(s) or immediate family are members of the congregation. It is CBY policy that no child will be turned away for financial hardship. Parent(s) or immediate family members should communicate directly with the CBY Treasurer for any financial considerations or alternate payment plans. The Religious School Director of Jewish Youth Education is neither able to make nor aware of any tuition adjustments.

All student's parent(s) or immediate family members are required to pay tuition prior to the beginning of the school year or make written and signed payment arrangements with the Treasurer. Should a family not comply with such written arrangements; the student(s) will not be entitled to matriculate after the winter break.

For tuition requirements pertaining to students of non-members, refer to Policy 8.1.1.b. All students' parent(s) are required to pay tuition prior to the beginning of the school year or make written and signed payment arrangements with the Treasurer. Should a family not comply with such written arrangements; the student(s) will not be entitled to matriculate after the winter break.



## Replacement of Policy 4.4 B'nai Mitzvah Preparation Fee

### Policy 4.4 B'nai Mitzvah Preparation Fee

Adopted by the Board of Directors: May 11, 2020

Replaces Policy Adopted on: March 13, 2017

#### Policy:

A B'nai Mitzvah fee will be assessed to each B'nai Mitzvah student of school age (see Policy 4.5.1.e and f). Payment of this fee can be made in two parts: 50 percent at the time the event is scheduled and the remaining 50 percent 90 days prior to the event. This information will be included in the date confirmation letter to be sent to the family.

The fee covers:

1. Books, including a Mishkan T'Filah, for each family and student which will be used in their respective classes. These classes are expected to educate B'nai Mitzvah students and make the total experience more meaningful for everyone.
2. Sanctuary usage.

## Replacement of Policy 4.5.1.e Member B'nai Mitzvah

### Policy 4.5.1.e Member B'nai Mitzvah

Adopted by Board of Directors: May 11, 2020

Replaces Policy adopted on: March 13, 2017

#### Policy:

e. Member B'nai Mitzvah: For each B'nai Mitzvah student of school age, the fee is \$300.00 which can be paid in two parts: 50 percent at the time the event is scheduled and the remaining 50 percent 90 days prior to the event. This information will be included in the date confirmation letter to be sent to the family (see Policy 4.4). Other building usage/Kitchen fees may apply.

## Replacement of Policy 4.5.1.f Non-Member B'nai Mitzvah

### Policy 4.5.1.f Non-Member B'nai Mitzvah

Adopted by Board of Directors: May 11, 2020

Replaces Policy adopted on: March 13, 2017

#### Policy:

f. Non-Member B'nai Mitzvah: For each B'nai Mitzvah student of school age, the fee is \$300.00 which can be paid in two parts: 50 percent at the time the event is scheduled and the remaining 50 percent 90 days prior to the event. This information will be included in the

date confirmation letter to be sent to the family (see Policy 4.4). Other building usage/Kitchen fees may apply. In addition, non-members must pay the equivalent of the current year's Affiliate Member dues.



# Congregation Beth Yam Religious School Code of Conduct

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I am part of the CBY Religious School community and I agree to participate respectfully and honorably. I agree to obey the following rules:

**Respect for Learning.** As a part of the Jewish people, I will take pride in learning about my heritage and traditions. I will come to class on time. I will do my classwork and eagerly participate in activities and discussions. I will ask questions if I do not understand. If I was absent, I will ask the teacher what I missed, and I will try to catch up to my class. **I will pay attention and do my work!**

**Respect for Myself.** I am welcome and safe at Religious School. I have the right to share what I believe, without worry that others will make fun of me. I will talk about what I am thinking and think about new things. I want to make new friends and explore what it means when to say I am Jewish. **I will share my thoughts!**

**Respect for Others.** The Rabbi, the Director, my teachers and my classmates expect me to respect them. I will not do things that interrupt others. I will turn off and put my toys and personal electronic devices away, unless the teacher give me permission to use them. I agree that a community cannot grow strong if we tear each other down. I know that teasing, name-calling, pranks and gossip are bullying and doing this is wrong! I promise not to bully others, and I promise that I will tell a teacher if I see anyone bullying anyone else. **I will not be hurtful, and I will speak up if I see others are!**

**Respect for How I Look.** I will come to Religious School clean and dressed properly. I understand that tank tops, strapless tops, "muscle shirts" and shirts or short pants that are too torn, too short, or too see-thru are not appropriate in Temple. Costumes, sports uniforms, noisy add-ons, cleats, and hats are distracting and not allowed unless for an activity that a teacher has given permission to wear. Since we go outside to play often, I will not wear flip flops, and I will bring a sweater or coat if I might need it for the outside weather. **I am proud to be proper and prepared!**

**Respect for Safety.** I agree that if I am asked to stop climbing or running or touching something I will stop! I will stay on the grounds of the school, and wherever I am told to stay until I am picked up to go home. If my class goes outside, I will stay in the playground with a teacher or the Director. I must tell a teacher or Director if I am picked up early, before I leave the school. I know that if the Director thinks I am missing, the school will call my parents, and the police. If I do not follow safety rules often, I may not be allowed to come back to this school and my parents will not get back any money back that they paid for me to be able to go. **I will listen and stay safe!**

**Respect for Property.** I will put garbage and recycling in its place. After crafts or snacks, I will help to clean up. I will not damage anything on purpose, but I know that accidents happen. I will tell a teacher if something accidentally breaks, so that it can be cleaned up or fixed. If I break something on purpose, my family may need to pay for the cost to fix or replace it. **I will be helpful and careful!**

**Respect for G-D and a Place of Worship.** I know that the Temple Sanctuary and any Church or Synagogue is a special place. It is a house of G-D where we thank G-D for teaching us what is right. We keep our Torah on the Bima in front of the Sanctuary. It is a special honor to be on the Bima. **I must act my best when I am in the Sanctuary to show G-D that I know the right things to do!**

\_\_\_\_\_  
student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand and will comply with these expectations to ensure that all students have a positive school year.