



Post B'nai Mitzvah  
Religious School Program  
Keshet, Confirmation, Kivunim  
Grades 8-12

At Temple Beth Tikvah, we believe Jewish education is a lifelong experience. We instill a love of Judaism in our children, giving them a solid foundation upon which to build later in life. After our students become b'nai mitzvah, their engagement in Jewish life becomes even more important as they grow towards independence.

This program, along with our Youth Programs, is designed to open gateways to Jewish life as they enter into adulthood.

Rabbi Elazar said in the name of Rabbi Chanina: The students of the wise increase peace in the world, as it says, "And all your children (*banayich*) will be taught of the Eternal and great shall be the peace of your children (*banayich*)." Do not read *banayich* (your children) but *bonayich* (your builders). (*Berachot* 64a)

*Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* is an important lifecycle moment when our students affirm their commitments as Jews and look to the future with a new perspective. That is why we are so committed to helping them continue their Jewish journeys as they become young adults.

As they grow, they are continually confronted by so many challenges of our contemporary age, as well as the social and academic challenges in their schools. Our synagogue community commits itself to providing a safe place for our students to grow, experience and learn, using Jewish values and Jewish sources as the lens through which to see the world.

We are very aware of the multiple demands placed upon their time (as well as upon their parents' time). Nevertheless, our synagogue believes that Jewish learning is a lifelong endeavor, and the "Jewish toolbox" that we can offer strengthens not only their Jewish identity, but their capacity to respond to the challenges, obstacles and responsibilities these students will face in school, college, and in life.

We believe our students want to be engaged in Jewish life. They want to be a part of a community where everyone is valued and where Jewish learning is going to be compelling and meaningful. These learning opportunities for our youth are age appropriate, stimulating, and fun. We hope that they renew their connections to our synagogue, but even more than that, they find their own place — their own community — to stand with their peers within *their* synagogue.

### **Monday Night Program**

The students gather on Monday nights as a single community, where they enjoy an informal dinner with their friends and small, interactive classes designed to help them explore Judaism from a new vantage point. Each program has a community-building element, forging connections among the teens and being creative in presentations (using discussions, debates, role playing, art) to make the learning fun and stimulating.

### **Kesher (8th and 9th Grades)**

Kesher means “Connection.” Students in grades 8 and 9 participate in a program designed especially for their unique needs and stage in life. We build on their religious school experiences and focus on issues of the day that confront them as Jewish teens, including responding to anti-Semitism in public school, social justice & Judaism, questions of Jewish identity, and more.

### **Confirmation (10th Grade)**

During the 10th grade, Temple Beth Tikvah students participate in a “Jewish Journey,” a personal learning experience with Rabbi Greene that involves exploring “God, Torah, and Israel” using contemporary themes and classic Jewish sources. The year includes a four-day trip to the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington, D.C. The year concludes with a Confirmation ceremony created and led by the students under the guidance of Rabbi Greene and Cantor Kassel.

### **Kivunim (11th/12th Grades)**

We are launching a new initiative to address the needs of our post-Confirmation students. *Kivunim* means “pathways.” This pilot year of continued learning will help our students to think about “what comes next.” Topics will include issues that relate to an independent Jewish life after graduating high school, such as Israel on Campus, Maintaining our Tradition at School, God in the Quad, and responses to challenging questions confronting Reform Jewish students.

For information about dates, fees, and more, please refer to our Registration Forms.

### **Madrichim—Student Teachers**

*Educate children in the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

At Temple Beth Tikvah, we are very proud to have a thriving *Madrichim* program. This program provides the opportunity for our teens to engage in meaningful Jewish work while fostering their connection to our synagogue community. Our students become teachers and in doing so, they learn valuable life skills and become role models for our younger children. Students in 8th -12th grade are eligible to apply to our *Madrichim* program and students in 8th-10th grade must be enrolled in our Post B’nai Mitzvah education classes on Monday nights or a similar initiative approved by the Religious School Director. For more information, contact the Religious School Office.