

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MISSION



The mission of the TBT Religious School is to create a strong Jewish identity within each of our students. We do this through teaching them Torah, Jewish history, Hebrew reading and prayer, and the study of Jewish holidays. Our curriculum focuses on Jewish life and religious practice, *Tefilah* (prayer), Bible, Hebrew, and Jewish social studies. We hope that our children will feel comfortable in any synagogue they go to with this foundation. We want them to have a special connection to God, the synagogue and Judaism. We enhance that connection through study, art, music, discussion, social action projects and other meaningful Jewish experiences throughout the year. It is our hope that these wonderful components of our education program create a positive attitude about Judaism that children will carry into their adult lives.



The Goals of Temple Beth Tikvah's Religious School Program are for our students:

- to be knowledgeable in Jewish life and religious practice.
- to be engaged in Jewish life and religious practice.
- to be proud of and take pride in their Judaism.
- to develop a relationship with and reverence for God.
- to be connected to our synagogue community.



Dear TBT Families,

Bruchim Haba'im—Welcome to another year with the Beth Tikvah religious school community. This handbook is filled with important information about our philosophy, policies and programs to illustrate Beth Tikvah's commitment to engaging and meaningful Jewish learning experiences for our students.

Every time we read the Sh'ma, we read "*V'shinantam l'vanecha*, we are instructed to "teach our children diligently," making it our responsibility to give our children the Jewish education they deserve—an education shaped by vision, hope, and purpose, so that they will have the tools to look at the world through Jewish eyes and know how to respond to the peaks and valleys we find in "real life."

Thank you for entrusting us to be partners with you in providing your children with a Jewish education. The synagogue in Hebrew is called a *Beit Kneset* (house of gathering), *Beit Tefillah* (house of prayer) and a *Beit Midrash* (house of study). It is our hope that Temple Beth Tikvah and our religious school will be a second home for your children: a place for them to have extended family; a place to feel safe and secure to ask any question; and a place for them to grow cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

The clergy and educators here at Temple Beth Tikvah will seek out ways not only to engage your children in Jewish learning, but to deepen their understanding and commitment to their Jewish journeys. We are concerned about how they learn, their self-esteem, and their capacity for compassion. We also need our students' parents and families to journey with them. And we are here to support you in this endeavor as you reinforce "doing Jewish" in your homes, in our synagogue, and places in-between.

As much as we are a people of thinkers and questioners, we are first and foremost a people of action. We are not supposed to simply study about life, but to fully embrace life, develop meaningful relationships, and bring God's presence into our lives. So for all of you who seek out how to make Jewish choices for yourselves and your families, we are here for you.

We stand ready to act in covenant with you to fulfill these responsibilities to benefit our congregation, the Jewish people and each and every one of you. In addition to educating your children, we offer many opportunities for adult and family learning as well. We hope you take full advantage of all we have to offer and that you will be an active part of our *kehillah*, our community.

With warm wishes and shalom,

Suzanne Hurwitz
Director of Education

Alexandria Shuval-Weiner
Rabbi

Nancy Kassel
Cantor

Perri Kunofsky
School Administrator

Donald Tam
Rabbi Emeritus

ADMISSION

Temple Beth Tikvah's religious school provides education to students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Children admitted to Kindergarten must be five years old by September 1st of the year of admission.

Children will be placed into the same grade as their public/private school whenever possible. There are exceptions, however, if a child does not have the Religious School background required. In these cases, placement will be at the discretion of the Director of Education after consultation with the parents. We welcome all children of temple members in good standing. Temple Beth Tikvah strives to be an inclusive and responsive community. We embrace the full range of dynamics present in today's family structures. We warmly welcome interfaith families to participate fully in congregational life and want non-Jewish spouses to be fully involved in their child(ren)'s Jewish learning.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS

K – 7 th grades		Sunday, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
4 th – 6 th grades	Sunday Option	Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 pm
4 th – 6 th grades	Tuesday Option	Tuesday, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
8 th – 12 th grades		Monday, 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Temple Beth Tikvah
Education Office
9955 Coleman Road
Roswell, GA 30075
(770) 642-4168 phone
(770) 642-0813 fax
education@bethtikvah.com
www.bethtikvah.com

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential to a quality Jewish education. Our educators work to make the time at school engaging and meaningful. Students missing more than 25% of the year's sessions may be asked to complete work before progressing to the next grade. All class sessions begin punctually. Even a few class minutes missed may take away from your child's learning and cause a disruption of the class.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Mazel tov! The following requirements apply to students who will become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Tikvah:

A minimum of five years attendance in mid-week Hebrew classes. Exceptions can be made by the Director of Education or Rabbi.

To qualify for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparatory course, sixth grade students are tested independently on their Hebrew reading.

With the exception of students attending Jewish day schools, enrollment in our Religious School and Hebrew classes through completion of 7th grade is required. For students who have completed 7th grade and who plan to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 8th grade, the student must be enrolled in our Keshet program.

Additional Bar/Bat Mitzvah information may be found in our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Our school follows the lead of Cobb and/or Fulton county schools closures and delayed openings*. Announcements may be made on television channel 11 (WXIA). Please watch this channel for the announcement. If you are still in doubt, call the religious school number and we will have an answering machine recording confirming or denying the cancellation.

*If Cobb and/or Fulton County cancel after school activities, the Religious School may not always follow suit. In case of threatening weather conditions we will keep our parents informed.

HOMEWORK

Teachers assign meaningful homework at their discretion. Homework can be an important reinforcement of Religious School studies and is designed to facilitate excellence in our student's Jewish knowledge. Acquiring skills in a new language takes time. The significance of Hebrew practice cannot be emphasized enough if your child is to be on track for life cycle events. Please make sure that your child spends at least 10 minutes a day between class sessions reviewing their Hebrew lesson. If any assistance is needed in working with your child on their Hebrew skills or other subjects covered in class, please contact the teacher and/or education director.

SECURITY

The safety and security of our students is our number one priority. Roswell police officers patrol the premises during religious school to keep our building safe and secure. The police officers constantly survey the building monitoring the coming and going of parents, congregants, and visitors to our building. Just as in any situation, we rely on everyone to keep ourselves safe. If you witness something suspicious, please report to a police officer or a TBT staff member. If you see something, say something!

EARLY PICK-UP

In order to take a student out of class early, a parent must come to the religious school office before 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, 1:15 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, or 6:15 p.m. on Tuesdays. They must show their driver's license and sign the child out of school. Students will be called using our intercom system. Teachers will not release students unless a school staff member has instructed them to do so.

CARPOOL

Each family will be assigned a carpool number and given a card to place on the right-hand side of your car's dashboard. Carpool drop-off begins fifteen minutes before the start of the school. Parking in the carpool line does not begin until 9:45am on Sunday and 5:15pm on Tuesday. If you intend on staying in the parking lot throughout the school day, please park in the lot until these times.

The religious school will utilize our intercom system for carpool dismissal. Students and teachers will remain in their classrooms during carpool. Kindergarten students will be escorted to their vehicles by a staff member. If students do not hear their number called the first time we will call the student by name. If your child(ren) do not come out when their number is called you will be asked to pull over to the side of the parking lot so we can locate your child and allow other parents to leave the parking lot in a timely manner.

Please respectfully follow the direction of the staff and madrichim in carpool. No cell phone use. Please wait until you are told to leave before driving away. The safety of all of our children is our number one concern!

STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Teachers evaluate students on an ongoing basis. Student reports will go home in December and in May.

TUITION REFUND POLICY

Temple Beth Tikvah Religious School will not issue tuition refunds beyond the first 3 sessions of the school year. Refunds will incur a \$100.00 processing fee. Refund requests must be in writing. Approved refunds will be issued within 60 days of the request.

TZEDAKAH

An important aspect of our tradition is *tzedakah*. We are obligated as Jews to help others. Each week students are asked to bring in a small sum of money, preferably from their personal allowance, which will be used to help others. Each grade will have different *tzedakah* recipients based on their curriculum and their wishes. We encourage every student's participation to the extent that he or she is able.

DRESS CODE

Students must show respect for our school, sanctuary, teachers, and fellow students by wearing attire similar to that permitted in public school. No head coverings, other than *kipot*, may be worn.

CLASSROOM DISTRACTIONS

Toys, stuffed animals, electronic devices, cell phones, iPods, and similar items are not permitted in the classroom (unless the child is participating in a teacher initiated "show and tell"). These items can be distracting to teachers and other students and are not conducive to learning. Each classroom will have a cell phone parking lot for students to park their devices during school hours.

BANNED ITEMS

Weapons of any kind are not permitted on our temple property. Any form of possession, use, or distribution of vapes/e-cigarettes containing THC oils (THS, etc.), hallucinogenic contents, or other illegal contents is a very serious violation and will result in long-term suspension or expulsion from school. Religious school fees will not be refunded in a case of dismissal from religious school. We at Beth Tikvah's Religious School thank you for your cooperation in implementing our behavior contract. Together, we can provide a safe and productive learning environment for our children.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

We need to take special care of Temple Beth Tikvah because it is our "home." We therefore expect all of our students to show *kavod* (honor, respect) to the temple property.

STUDENT GUEST POLICY

In the spirit of hospitality, we are thrilled to welcome guests. If a guest has prior approval from the director to attend classes we will need advance notification and approval from the teacher and a signed letter from the parent of the guest.

VOLUNTEERING

We desire all Temple Beth Tikvah parents to become involved. There is always something to be done at the school. Please give of your time by being a room parent, volunteering for holiday and special programs, working as a substitute teacher or assisting with communications.

PLAYGROUND

Students will be allowed to play on the playground only if supervised by a parent or teacher. The playground will be open during religious school hours for our youngest students. Students must stay off the fence and not climb on top of the playground structures.

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Accommodations and supports will be implemented within our means and within the structure of our program on a case by case basis. We are committed to building open communication and partnership with families so that we can most effectively meet the needs of each child. Please share with us any information relevant to the learning style of your child. The family is financially responsible if a child has special needs that require a staff person for his or her success.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

We are fortunate to have an active Board of Education. The Board is involved with overseeing events and decision-making that relates to our educational programs at Temple Beth Tikvah. We encourage all parents to become actively involved in the education of their children by participating with the Board members in their continuing support of the ongoing programs.

OUR RABBI AND CANTOR

Rabbi Alexandria Shuval-Weiner and Cantor Nancy Kassel are integral to our education program. They lead *tefillah* (prayer services), holiday assemblies and discussion groups for all grades, provide classroom demonstrations, work closely with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, and coordinate Shabbat Service participation. Rabbi Shuval-Weiner teaches the Confirmation class to our students in tenth grade and Cantor Kassel teaches music to our students and leads our junior choir and B'nai Mitzvah tutoring program.

POST BAR/BAT MITZVAH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Temple Beth Tikvah's leadership is devoted to its students of all ages. It is our position that Jewish learning is a lifetime endeavor. As our students become b'nai mitzvah, they are not only reaching a life cycle moment, they are affirming their commitments as Jews. Therefore, we offer programming for post-b'nai mitzvah students in grades 8 through 12. On Monday nights, all gather for dinner as part of one single community (TBT "KiCKs – Keshar, Confirmation and Kivunim), and then break into their own classes.

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH BRIT (BEHAVIOR COVENANT)

In our tradition, we believe that each and every soul is created in the image of God. As such, the way in which we interact is a sacred covenant. Our Brit makes sure that our school is safe and warm for all involved.

Developing a positive school climate involves the use of (1) age appropriate consequences (2) a simple structure (3) reasonable rules (4) and the child assuming an important role in his/her own educational environment. In such an atmosphere, the class is neither teacher-dominated nor student-controlled; rather, it is a joint effort to learn, relate, and experience.

CLASSROOM RULES:

The students and teachers in each class will compile a list of rules cooperatively.

CONSEQUENCES:

Should a situation arise in which behavior by a student results in the loss of instructional time, the following procedures will be followed:

The teacher will positively refocus the student(s) by reminding the class of the expectations. Students who continue to not follow the class rules will receive logical and appropriate consequences. Parents may be contacted as deemed necessary by the teacher and the Education Director.

If a situation arises in which property is stolen or destroyed, the repair or replacement cost will be incurred by the student.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, THREATS, AND BULLYING BEHAVIOR:

Harassment is defined as:

Intentional, substantial, and unreasonable verbal, physical or written contact that is initiated, maintained, or repeated. No student shall engage in harassment, intimidation, or abuse of or toward **any** other student(s).

Bullying behavior is defined as: Willful attempts or threats to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or intentional displays of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

1. No student shall engage in verbal or written harassment or bullying of or toward another student or students or employees.
2. No student shall threaten, either verbally, in writing, electronically, or by physical presence, expressed or implied, or conspire to cause bodily injury to any student or employee.
3. No student shall harass or bully another student or students. At least one parent/guardian will be required to attend a conference with the Education Director and/or Rabbi concerning the student's behavior.

Students who knowingly file a false report of bullying will also be disciplined.

CURRICULUM: KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SEVENTH GRADE

Our curriculum is values-based, relying heavily on Shalom Learning, a curriculum developed in 2011 and used by approximately 100 congregations in North America. Each grade will learn about Israel, holidays and rituals, *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), God, sacred texts, and Jewish values at a level appropriate to them. Hebrew will be implemented into classroom learning beginning in kindergarten, to familiarize students with the appearance and sounds of the letters and language from an early age.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Each grade will have a family education day, and a grade-level Shabbat. Please join us!

	Family Shabbat Dinner & Services	Family Education Days
Kindergarten	October 20, 2019 (Consecration, 6:30 PM)	September 8, 2019
Kindergarten	March 20, 2020	
1st/2nd grade	March 20, 2020	September 8, 2019
3rd grade	April 17, 2020	February 2, 2020
4th grade	April 17, 2020	March 1, 2020
5th grade	March 27, 2020	April 19, 2020
6th grade	February 21, 2020	December 8, 2019
7th grade	Bar/Bat Mitzvah Services	N/A
10th grade	May 8, 2020 (Confirmation, 6:30 PM)	N/A

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's formal religious education!