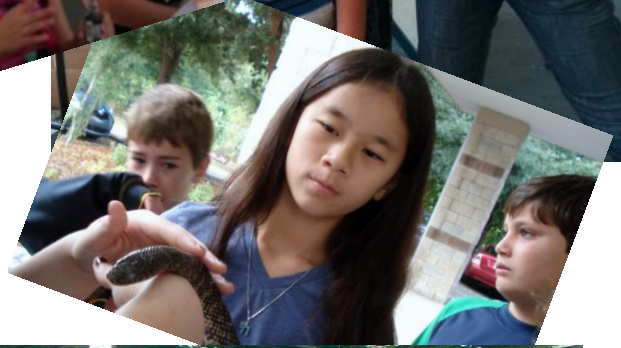


# BETH AM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK



2015-2016

Congregation Beth Am Religious School—Sundays, 2015-2016

8/30 Class  
9/6 No Class—Labor Day  
9/13 No Class—Erev Rosh Hashanah  
9/20 Class  
9/27 Class  
10/4 Class  
10/11 Class  
10/18 Class  
10/25 No Class  
11/1 No Class—Buddy Run  
11/8 Class  
11/15 Class  
11/22 No Class—Thanksgiving Break  
11/29 No Class—Thanksgiving Break  
12/6 Class—Latke Bash  
12/13 Class—Dan Nichols event  
12/20 No Class—Winter Break  
12/27 No Class—Winter Break  
1/3 No Class—Winter Break  
1/10 Class  
1/17 No Class—MLK Holiday  
1/24 Class—6<sup>th</sup> Grade Community-Wide Program at JCC  
1/31 Class  
2/6 Class—Café Shabbat and Shabbat School—PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A  
SATURDAY  
2/14 Class  
2/21 Class  
2/28 Class  
3/6 Class—Purim Carnival  
3/13 No Class—Spring Break  
3/20 No Class—Spring Break  
3/27 No Class—Spring Break  
4/3 Class  
4/10 Class—5<sup>th</sup> Grade Community-Wide Program at JCC  
4/17 Class  
4/24 No Class--Pesach  
5/1 Class  
5/8 No Class—Mother's Day  
5/15 Class

Congregation Beth Am Religious School—Wednesdays, 2015-2016

9/2 Class  
9/9 Class  
9/16 Class  
9/23 No Class—Yom Kippur  
9/30 Class  
10/7 Class  
10/14 Class  
10/21 Class  
10/28 Class  
11/4 Class  
11/11 No Class—Veterans' Day  
11/18 Class  
11/25 No Class—Thanksgiving Break  
12/2 Class  
12/9 Class—4th Night of Chanukah  
12/16 Class  
12/23 No Class—Winter Break  
12/30 No Class—Winter Break  
1/6 Class  
1/13 Class  
1/20 Class  
1/27 Class  
2/3 Class  
2/10 Class  
2/17 Class  
2/24 Class  
3/2 Class  
3/9 Class  
3/16 No Class—Spring Break  
3/23 No Class—Spring Break and Purim  
3/30 Class  
4/6 Class  
4/13 Class  
4/20 Class  
4/27 No Class--Pesach  
5/4 Class  
5/11 Class

## BETH AM FAMILY EDUCATION 2015-2016

### **Kindergarten/Pre-K: Sunday, November 18, 2015**

Pajama Party & Bedtime Shema

### **First Grade: Sunday, January 10, 2016**

Judaism in the Home—Creating a *Mikdash Me'at*

### **Second Grade**

What Does God Look Like?

### **Third Grade: Sunday, February 14, 2016**

Tzedakah

### **Fourth and Fifth Grade: Sunday, November 15, 2015**

B'nai Mitzvah Workshop

*(Sign up for B'nai Mitzvah dates)*

### **Sixth Grade: Sunday, February 28, 2016**

Siddur & Prayer

### **Seventh Grade: Sunday, October 11, 2015**

Ethics, Values, Torah & Prayer = Bar/Bat Mitzvah

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## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

|                                             |                            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sukkot at Beth Am                           | Sunday, September 27, 2015 |
| Consecration for PreK-1 <sup>st</sup> grade | Sunday, October 4, 2015    |
| Latke Bash                                  | Sunday, December 6, 2015   |
| Chanukah Program with Dan Nichols           | Sunday, December 13, 2015  |
| Shabbat School                              | Saturday, February 6, 2016 |
| Purim Carnival                              | Sunday, March 6, 2016      |

**Congregation Beth Am**  
**Religious School INFORMATION 2015-2016**

**COMMUNICATION**

- Contact Hillary Rosenberg, school director, during the week at **968-8511, ext. 26**. Your concerns are very important to us so please leave a message if there is no answer and Hillary will return your call as soon as possible. You can also contact her by cell phone at 813-420-8938, or by email at HRosenberg@BethAmTampa.org
- School Weekly e-mail updates will be sent out on Tuesdays and important additions to these notices must be sent to Hillary Rosenberg no later than Monday evenings. Please note that Hillary does not check e-mail on Shabbat. If it is imperative that she be reached prior to Sunday morning, please call and leave a message on her cell phone.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the Teacher, Religious School Director, or Rabbi with questions, concerns, or problems.
- Parents will be informed if a child is experiencing difficulty in a class.
- Emergency Communication, such as an impending hurricane, may possibly take place over Shabbat. If classes need to be cancelled at the last minute due to a hurricane or other major emergency then emergency instructions will be sent via e-mail. Please check e-mail if major emergencies arise.

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

- Sunday school on Sunday begins at 9:30 am and concludes at 12:00 noon; Hebrew School on Wednesday begins at 5:45 pm and ends at 7:00 pm. All children need to be picked up promptly at the end of class.
- Sundays please walk students to their Hillel School building classrooms and pick them up at Beth Am's sanctuary.
- Wednesdays please drop off the students at Beth Am's building and pick them up in their Hillel School building classrooms.

**ATTENDANCE**

- A positive religious school experience is of utmost importance. In order to receive the most out of school, regular attendance is necessary. If there is a health situation or other personal difficulty that affects regular attendance then please contact Hillary in order to work out special arrangements.
- **Attendance Policy**: Students are required to be present for a **minimum of 70%** of class days. Students who do not meet this minimum *will* be required to complete an assignment during the summer. Please contact us well in advance if special arrangements are necessary.
- Parents and guests are always welcome in classes. Visits **must be scheduled** by advance notice with the Religious School Director.

**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES**

- Textbooks, workbooks, and art supplies are provided.



- Teachers will inform parents if additional materials, such as notebooks, are required.
- Students are expected to bring their own pencils & pens along with text and workbooks to Religious School.

### **SNACKS**

- Parents will be asked to provide Challah and juice or water for the class on a rotating basis on Sunday mornings.
- Hillel School has strict rules regarding food in their classrooms. Therefore, please do not send any additional food to Religious School unless specifically requested by the classroom teacher or homeroom parent.

### **SHABBAT SERVICES**

- Children of all ages are encouraged to attend services with their parents on Friday evening and Saturday morning.
- Beginning in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, each grade level is required to attend a minimum number of Shabbat services at Congregation Beth Am:
 

|                       |                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 4 services                                         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 5 services, 1 of these must be on Saturday morning |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 6 services, 3 of these must be on Saturday morning |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade | 7 services, 4 of these must be on Saturday morning |

**There is a sign-in book at the entryway of the sanctuary. Please make sure your child signs in.**
- This year, there will be Shabbat school on Saturday, February 6th. Students who attend this Shabbat with their families will get credit for two Saturday morning services.

### **DRESS CODE**

- Proper dress attire is expected. Our school follows the guidelines of Hillsborough County Public School Dress Code. Students are required to wear shoes at all times and flip-flops are unacceptable (and unsafe) for school.

### **TZEDAKAH**

- As a part of our Jewish tradition, students are encouraged to bring tzedakah to Religious School each week.

Hillary Rosenberg, Religious School Director  
[HRosenberg@bethamtampa.org](mailto:HRosenberg@bethamtampa.org)  
 968-8511, ext. 26    813-420-8938 (cell phone)

# Religious School Curriculum

We use a combination of the CHAI curriculum and supplemental material in our Religious School classrooms at Congregation Beth Am. The CHAI Curriculum is the Union for Reform Judaism's national Jewish school curriculum guide. Each core level contains units on *Torah*, *Avodah* (prayer), and *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). The CHAI curriculum is designed so that student learning will go beyond the specific classroom activities and will reach a deeper enduring understanding, establishing the basis for later Jewish learning and living.

## PreK/K

- Holidays
- Jewish Values
- Jewish Stories

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### **Chai Curriculum Level 1:**

Torah: I am part of the ongoing story of Torah and the Jewish people.

Avodah: My Jewish acts help me discover the beauty and order of sacred time and my place in the Jewish story.

G'milut Chasadim: I am a part of the ongoing story of the Jewish people when I perform acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### **Torah Stories**

### **Chai Curriculum Level 2:**

Torah: The Torah teaches me how to be part of the Jewish people.

Avodah: Jewish stories, celebrations and rituals help me understand and express my relationship with God.

G'milut Chasadim: We make the world a better place by performing acts of *g'milut chasadim* in our everyday lives.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### **Judaism and the Environment**

### **Chai Curriculum Level 3:**

Torah: The laws and rules found in the Torah can help us to live a life filled with holy moments.

Avodah: Through *avodah* we can make our lives and the world more *kadosh* (holy).

G'milut Chasadim: Each individual act of *g'milut chasadim* can make the world more *kadosh* (holy).

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Jewish Lifecycle**

#### **Chai Curriculum Level 4**

Torah: With the promise of a holy land (*Eretz Yisrael*), we as a holy people (*Am Yisrael*) have a responsibility to work towards becoming holy by observing the *brit* (covenant).

Avodah: *Keva* and *kavanah*, the fixed order of worship and the personal intention we bring to prayer, are complementary aspects of Jewish worship, combining to help us make sacred connections.

G'milut Chasadim: We have a responsibility to perform acts of *g'milut chasadim* for the people we encounter in our daily lives.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

##### **Israel**

#### **Chai Curriculum Level 5:**

Torah: The prophets were focused on reminding the Jewish people how God wants us to live, and their messages are at the heart of Reform Judaism.

Avodah: The practice of prayer can help me grow through personal reflection, can increase my connection to the Jewish people, and can strengthen my relationship with God.

G'milut Chasadim: We are all part of *K'lal Yisrael* and have a responsibility to actively support and sustain the Jewish community through acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

##### **Mitzvah and Tikkun Olam Projects**

#### **Chai Curriculum Level 6:**

Torah: Studying Jewish texts allows us to explore our relationship with God and reflect on the ways God is continuously revealed to others and to ourselves.

Avodah: *Avodah* is the work we do, by exploring our personal and communal role in Revelation, to find sacred connections to God, community and self.

G'milut Chasadim: We can experience God in our world, in others and within ourselves by engaging in acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

##### **Jewish Values and Ethics—Becoming a Jewish Adult**

#### **Chai Curriculum Level 7:**

Torah: My life is reflected in and reflects Torah.

Avodah: The message and power of Jewish prayer can help me understand and define myself as an individual and as an authentic member of the Jewish community.



G'milut Chasadim: Our development as emerging Reform Jewish adults and authentic members of the Jewish community is closely linked to our ethical behavior (*middot*) and the performance of acts of *g'milut chasadim*.

## **HEBREW CURRICULUM**

### **Lower Grades**

Our PreK, K, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be using a variety of materials as they are introduced to the alef-bet.

Our second graders will be using *Journeys through the Alef-Bet*. It introduces letters and vowels, introduces core vocabulary concepts, teaches students to blend single-letter vowel combinations, and shows the students Hebrew letters in the real world (especially in Israel).

Our third graders will be using *Tiyulim*. It continues the learning of the Alef-Bet, using real words for Hebrew sounding drills, and increasing vocabulary, while taking the students on a brief tour of Israel.

### **Upper Grades**

In the upper grades, we utilize levels, rather than grade divisions. We have found this to be very successful—students are able to move up as they advance, and it makes it easier for us to discover students who are having trouble and needed extra help.

Our Alef students will be using *Tiyulim* to get them up to speed and sight-reading with some degree of fluency. We will also use beginner texts as necessary for our students who have never studied Hebrew before.

Our Bet students will be using *Journeys Through the Siddur, Friday Evening*. . As they learn to read the prayers, they will be developing a generalized meaning of the prayers, exploring what these prayers mean to them, and extending their knowledge of how the Hebrew language works.

Our Gimmel students will be continuing in this vein with *Journeys Through the Siddur, Saturday Morning*.

Our Daled students will focus on the prayers of the Torah service. If they master these prayers, they will do some modern Hebrew as well.

Our seventh grade students will continue working together to prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.