

# Beth EI- The Beaches Synagogue Center for Lifelong Learning

## Philosophy

The goal of Jewish education at Beth EI- the Beaches Synagogue is the deepening of Jewish experience and knowledge for all Jews in order to strengthen faith in God, love of *Torah* and identification with the Jewish people through involvement in synagogue and participation in Jewish life.

At Beth EI- the Beaches Synagogue, we believe that Jewish education should foster within each child the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to participate comfortably in the Jewish Community. We take great pride in our excellent teaching staff, who provide our students with a rich understanding and appreciation of Judaism. We are excited about our curriculum, which focuses on the Jewish family, Jewish values, Hebrew, prayer, *Torah* and history, rituals, customs, Israel, Jewish ethics, *tzedakah* and social action, in addition to our wonderful Family Education Days. The staff works in partnership with parents through our educational process, and provides materials for our students to take home and share with their families. Also provided are many *mitzvah* opportunities for our classes and families.

## Goals

- To nurture a positive Jewish identity
- To create an enriching and uplifting Jewish educational experience
- To provide many opportunities to enhance and encourage Jewish family life
- To provide an understanding of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and encourage student and family participation in *mitzvot* opportunities
- To provide an opportunity to enhance your child's self-esteem through Jewish peer relationships at Beth EI- the Beaches Synagogue
- To develop an understanding of basic Jewish concepts in *Torah*, history, rituals, holidays, prayer and Hebrew
- To encourage our students' understanding of the culture and people of Israel
- To encourage a lifetime commitment to Jewish life and Jewish communal involvement
- To create Lifelong Jews

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share in your child's Jewish education.

## Attendance and Promptness

All students are expected to attend all class sessions. If your child is absent, we ask that you leave a message in our Lifelong Learning Center at 273-9100 ext.16 , so that the teacher will be informed. If your child is absent more than two sessions in a row, the teacher will contact you regarding the assignments that your child has missed. We expect that your child will arrive on-time to school. If your child has an excessive amount of absences, and falls behind in Hebrew, your child may need to be privately tutored at your expense.

## Early Dismissal

No student will be allowed to meet their parent early without that parent signing their child out in the Lobby at Beth El or at the front desk. Parents are not allowed to go directly to the classroom. You must sign your child out at the parent volunteer table, and your child will be brought to you in the lobby. No student may leave the building during school hours without being signed out by the parent or an appointed person. (Written permission for this person from the parent must accompany the child).

## Drop-off Procedures

All students must be dropped off in front of the Synagogue or walked in by their parent or the carpool parent.

## Pick up Procedures

We will be forming a carpool line beginning before the overhang in front of Beth El. If you choose the carpool line, your child will be brought to your car and we ask that you pull away promptly so you do not hold up other parents. Please be patient! If you wish to park and pick up your child(ren) under the overhang, we ask that you watch the cars in the parking lot and cross only at the cross walk. Please do not pull out of the parking space before looking all ways!!

## Rainy Day Pick up

In case of rain, all parents must park and walk in to pick up their child in the entrance lobby area or the social hall. NO students will be dismissed without the parent physically coming in and picking up their child.

## Dress Code

Students must dress appropriately for Religious/Sunday School. Students should not wear tank tops without proper covering, cannot have their stomachs showing, or wear inappropriate t-shirts. Students should be dressed in a way that shows respect to the Synagogue. Students should also dress appropriately when attending Friday Night and Saturday Morning Worship. Blue Jeans are not suggested at Worship Services.

### Discipline Policy

All staff, students and parents will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with *derech eretz* (proper behavior) at all times. The staff is responsible for implementing all discipline procedures conducive with an orderly, safe and productive learning environment. When it is recognized by any staff member that a student is behaving in an inappropriate way, one or more of the following will be implemented: 1. The teacher will talk to the student in a private conversation, 2. The teacher will refer this student to the Director of Lifelong Learning for a further discussion, 3. The parent(s) will be contacted for a private meeting with the Director to discuss the behavior and talk about expectations of the student, 4. Additional steps may be taken if disruptive behavior continues.

### Tzedakah

A fundamental principle in our Center for Lifelong Learning is the intent to do *ma'asim Tovim* (good deeds) and that includes *tzedakah* (righteous behavior). One way we are committed to living out this value is by contributing to our weekly *tzedakah* collection in the each classroom. An appropriate weekly amount to be sent with your child is between 50 cents and one dollar.

### Friday Night Shabbat Services

All of our students Kindergarten through Sixth Grades are asked to attend their grade level Shabbat Service once a year, and an additional three Shabbat Services throughout the year (for a total of 4 Shabbat Worship experiences. Seventh Grade should refer to the B'nai Mitzvah Handbook.

### Guests

Due to space limitations, please refrain from bringing guests to our classrooms. Students may occasionally bring a visitor to our school with prior permission from the Director of Lifelong Learning.

### Snacks

The students will be provided with a healthy snack which parents will be asked to provide on a rotating basis. You will be contacted by your child's teacher when it is your turn. Please see the healthy snack list for suggestions.

### Family Educational Opportunities

The Center for Lifelong Learning has a commitment to empower and enable the entire family to comfortably participate in our Jewish community. Each grade will have one Family Education Day in which the parents are asked to come to school with their child. There will be other special days offered during the school year which will be open to the entire Beth El community. The staff of Beth El- the Beaches Synagogue is always available for your individual questions.

### Family Shabbat Opportunities

Our Center for Lifelong Learning students will be participating in a grade level Shabbat. Please join us for this wonderful Shabbat experience. One Friday of each month is our Family Shabbat Service geared for elementary school age students. There will be Kabbalat Shabbat Experiences offered for preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> graders on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

### Education Committee

Our Education Committee is under the leadership of the Chairperson . This committee is the support group for the Director of Lifelong Learning and our entire school. This committee will set goals, review policy and curriculum, and act as a liaison for the school. If you would like further information about this committee, please contact the Director of Lifelong Learning.

### Room Parents

We are looking for some parents to become involved as room parents for their child's classroom. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact our Director of Lifelong Learning.

### Beth El- the Beaches Synagogue, Temple Youth Group (TYG)

We at Beth El are proud of our Youth Programming, which we have been working very hard to rejuvenate. Our youth groups consist of social, social action and religious programming in an informal and fun setting.

Senior TYG (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) are associated with NFTY, the National Federation of Temple Youth (we will be paying dues to a local NFTY Youth Group). We will provide teens with social, social action and religious programming, as well as helping develop their leadership and organizational skills. As a high school member of Senior TYG, they are eligible to attend the many NFTY conclaves and conventions throughout the year.

Junior TYG's (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) will have the opportunity to socialize during our youth group events, which will be offered after Sunday School at Beth El. They will also have the option of attending several Sunday events outside of Beth El throughout the school year.

Beth El- the Beaches Synagogue  
Center for LifeLong Learning Curriculum

Chaverim (Pre K-2nd Grades)

Pre Kindergarten & Kindergarten

Students are introduced to basic Jewish symbols, *tzedekah and mitzvot*, holidays, Jewish values and Bible characters. They are exposed to the Hebrew letters. This class provides opportunities for the child to enrich his or her Jewish experience through in-class activities that may be continued at home as part of ongoing Jewish living and expression. Parents are an important part of this course and are encouraged to extend course work to the home environment through stories, rituals and activities.

First Grade

Students will be introduced to the *Torah* through an exploration of the personalities and stories in Genesis and Exodus. They will examine more closely the holidays and Jewish values. They will also be introduced to Jewish ritual, practices and religious objects. Hebrew letter recognition and their sounds will be taught.

Second Grade

This curriculum takes an in-depth look at the Jewish calendar: its months, seasons, holidays and events. Art, music, cooking and stories will help explore each holiday, and investigate its meaning and practice within Jewish tradition. Our students will also be reinforcing the Hebrew letters and their sounds, and putting these sounds together for form simple words.

Hebrew and Religious Curriculum

Chalutzim (3rd-7<sup>th</sup> Grades)

Third Grade

This course will complete an in-depth exploration of Jewish values through Biblical and Rabbinic stories, as well as tales from Jewish folklore. The class will discover important values that enhance their religious and secular lives. Students will also learn about Israel, its past and its present. The Hebrew component will build on the prior year with emphasis on reading words and prayers.

Fourth Grade

Our Fourth Graders will explore God and the question of "how we live as God's partner". Our students will also discuss the significance of Jewish values and how they relate to growing up Jewish today. Our Hebrew program teaches additional prayers, and students will learn modern Hebrew words such as colors and family members.

### Fifth Grade

Students will study and experience the Jewish life cycle, with its emphasis on making all of life's moments holy and meaningful. Students will begin at birth, and continue through *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, Jewish weddings and a discussions through death and mourning practices. Parents will play an integral part of this experience. Our Hebrew program continues teaching prayers and broadens the scope of modern Hebrew words and simple sentences.

### Sixth Grade

Our Sixth Graders will explore their family history, study Israel's role in the world, and learn about and discuss various aspects of the Holocaust. We will discuss what it means to be a Jew today living in America, and how it differs from what their ancestors experienced. Our Hebrew program expands, teaching all additional prayers necessary for *B'nai Mitzvah*, as well as further modern Hebrew.

### Seventh Grade

Students will return to the study of *Torah* in preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The students will have the opportunity to discuss and analyze various *Torah* portions and will be introduced to their *Haftarah*. The curriculum includes Jewish philosophy, moral and ethical issues, Synagogue skills and continued Hebrew.

### Ninth through Twelfth Grade Confirmation

This course gives our students the opportunity to study closely with Rabbi Matuson. Students will explore what being a Jewish adult means and how it will shape their future. Our Confirmation class will attend a retreat with Rabbi Matuson.

### Teen Volunteer Program

Our Teen Volunteers are those post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students who wish to become a *Madrich*, a Teacher Assistant in our School. Our Teen volunteers support our teachers in the classroom and tutor and mentor our students, while earning service credit hours for school. Please contact the Director of Lifelong Learning if you would like to volunteer.



## Healthy Snack Guidelines

The following guidelines are presented to assure a school environment that promotes and protects student's health and well-being. We rely on parents to supply a mid-morning snack. We thank you in advance for planning ahead and following these guidelines.

**Snacks to Avoid:** Please avoid snacks that are high in sugar, salty, high in fat-candy, donuts, cake, brownies, anything with nuts, etc.

Healthy snacks supply an energy boost! Fruits and vegetables, low-fat, whole grain breads or muffins are good choices.

**Suggested Snacks:**

- Challah
- Fresh fruit in season cut in slices or halves, such as apples, oranges, bananas, peaches
- Low fat Breads and Muffins such as banana, blueberry, pumpkin or zucchini
- Mini bagels (with cream cheese or margarine on the side)
- Cheese it or goldfish crackers
- Pretzels
- Graham or animal crackers
- Low fat string cheese or cubed cheese
- Applesauce cups
- Baked chip
- Anything you can think of that is not on this list

If it is your child's birthday or a family celebration, you are welcome to bring something "sweet", but please let us know in advance.