



Sha'arei Shalom

**Hebrew School
Student Family Handbook**

5774-5775

2014-2015

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
SCHOOL MISSION	1
SCHOOL GOALS	1
SCHOOL PROGRAM	1
CURRICULUM	1
MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION	5
CLASS ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS	6
FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT SERVICE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS	6
HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS	6
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	7
BAR/BAT MITZVAH PLANNING	7
PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES	7
PARENTAL VISITS	8
TUITION	8
HEALTHCARE	8
ACCIDENT/EMERGENCY	8
NOTICE OF SCHOOL CANCELLATION	9
CODE OF CONDUCT	9
CONTACT LIST	10
RABBI	10
TEACHERS.....	10
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	10

School Mission

To educate our children in the customs, practices and rituals of Judaism, and to instill a life-long commitment to Judaism through a partnership between parents, teachers and students.

School Goals

To educate our children in the customs, practices, rituals, and holidays of Judaism:

- To promote the development of a strong Jewish identity
- To instill a life-long commitment to Judaism
- To ensure quality Hebrew School experience which is rooted in a partnership between parents, teachers and students
- To develop a sense of Jewish community
- To create a nurturing environment that makes learning fun
- To celebrate Shabbat, festivals/festivities, and occasions significant to Jewish life
- To be exposed to Hebrew alphabet, to learn to read and write in Hebrew
- To become involved in the traditions of Mitzvot and Tzedakah
- To provide understanding and knowledge of our Jewish heritage and culture
- To provide a sense of one's role in the American Jewish community, world Jewry, and Israel

School Program

Curriculum

Kitah Gan (Kindergarten)

Our kindergarten curriculum focuses on the introducing children to the basic elements of a Jewish life. Holidays are taught through experiential sensory activities and through the “Let’s Discover the Holidays” pamphlet series. Hebrew words and Hebrew songs expose students to the Hebrew language. Jewish themed picture books introduce the children to Jewish customs, values, and culture.

Students learn the blessings over candles, bread, and wine. Students participate in tzedakah projects such as food drives and other acts of giving and caring. Our approach is very interactive and experiential and students begin to develop a special and positive identity around what it means to be Jewish.

Kitah Aleph (Grade 1)

Aleph students learn to read all of the Hebrew letters and learn the Hebrew alphabet in its entirety. By the end of the year our hope is that they will master the 22 basic

aleph bet letters and basic vowel sounds, beginning to read single consonant-vowel combinations. Blessings over candles, bread, and wine are reinforced and the blessings associated with special days such as Shabbat, Chanukah, and Passover are introduced. Students learn about their Hebrew names as an important symbol of Jewish identity and identify their names with family members or members of the Jewish people. Holidays are reinforced through hands-on projects, songs, and games.

Kitah Bet (Grade 2)

Bet students focus on review of the aleph-bet letters and their corresponding sounds, working to a greater fluency in reading and writing skills. By the end of the year our hope is that they will be able to read two and perhaps three syllable Hebrew words. Basic Hebrew vocabulary is also introduced. Students begin to interact with the Siddur by learning about the role of prayer in Judaism, the different kinds of prayers, and the basics of the Barchu, Shema, Oseh Shalom, and Hiney Ma Tov, as well as the Israeli National Anthem (Hatikva) and the 4 Questions for Passover.

Holidays are explored as students learn about rituals, history, and biblical background of all of the major festivals of the year. Students will also be introduced to common Jewish symbols, key traditions over the Jewish life cycle, and Jewish values. The concept of Mitzvot will be brought alive by tying it to a specific tzedakah project to instill the concept of giving as a habit and obligation.

Kitah Gimel (Grade 3)

Our Gimel class begins our two-day per week program and features a more formal emphasis on Hebrew reading and writing, enabling students to achieve whole word competency. Reading and writing skills are targeted using the Time to Read Hebrew two volume series. Gimel students also begin participating in our twice monthly Learner's Service in order to become more familiar with Shabbat prayers and their tunes. They will begin to be responsible for learning specific prayers, including V'ahavta, Adon Alom, Ma Tovu, Mi Shebeirach, Ma Tovu, and Hallelujah/Psalm 150, as well as the Israeli National Anthem (Hatikva). In order to mark their transition to more formal instruction in prayer, each student will be presented with his/her own personalized prayer book at a special Friday night service in October.

Students continue to learn Torah, now understanding how the stories from the Bible fit together chronologically and how they are the underpinnings of the history of the Jewish people. Students will continue to celebrate and study the holidays, now

digging deeper into the meaning behind the holidays and how they connect together to form a cycle of remembrances and opportunities for reflection.

Tzedakah projects enable students to give attention to timely events in the world. Students make conscious choices to respond to those in need both locally and globally.

Kitah Dalet (Grade 4)

During our Dalet year, students use their already developed reading skills to focus on learning the prayers of the Friday night Shabbat service. Throughout the learning of the prayers, students will be encouraged and challenged to personalize the meaning of each prayer to themselves. Hebrew vocabulary related to the content of the prayers will be taught as a way of further connecting the students to the meaning of what they are learning to recite/sing. Students will be expected to learn the following prayers in their Dalet year: L'cha Dodi, Ahavat Olam, V'ahavta, Mi Chamocha, V'shamru, Shalom Rav, Aleynu, and the Hatzki Kaddish. Students will continue participating in our twice monthly Learner's Service to aid in their mastering these prayers.

Students will also study the major events in the Jewish Life Cycle. Emphasis will be on helping the students form a deeper Jewish identity and on how the celebration of uniquely Jewish life cycle events helps to develop and maintain such an identity for oneself and one's family. Dalet students will enter a new area of Bible study which focuses on the post-exodus portion of the torah. Holidays continue to be acknowledged and celebrated but there is now an assumption that the students already know much about the basics of holiday meanings and traditions.

Kitah Hey (Grade 5)

Language and prayer are combined now, as the Hey students continue in the second book of the Journeys Through the Siddur series (Shabbat Morning volume). Students will continue to delve into the meaning of the prayers and how they fit into the overall structure of the service. Throughout the learning of the prayers, students will be encouraged and challenged to personalize the meaning of each prayer to themselves. Hebrew vocabulary related to the content of the prayers will be taught as a way of further connecting the students to the meaning of what they are learning to recite/sing. Students will review the following prayers learned last year: the full Shema including V'ahavta, Adon Olam, Mi Chamocha, and L'cha Dodi. They will also be expected to learn the following prayers in their Hey year: The beginning to the Amidah (Avot V'imachot and G'voorot), Tzadik Hatamar, Barach Sheh-amar and Ashrey.

Holidays continue to be acknowledged and celebrated but there is now an assumption that the students already know much about the basics of holiday meanings and traditions. Students will continue their exploration of their Jewish identity by delving into an exploration of their family tree and family history.

This is the first time the Holocaust is introduced to the Sha'arei Shalom students in our curriculum. Only general concepts will be taught this year and the topic will be covered around the time of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which falls towards the end of the year. At this point the students should be more mature and exposed to the history of the Jewish people. We use stories for children from the book *Ten Thousand Children*. These stories focus on themes of survival and courage, not on the details of the Shoah. All discussions are kept age appropriate. It is very much recommended to invite any relatives, grandparents or neighbors that have survived the holocaust to tell their story and to light a Yizkor Candle as part of the ceremony. Again, the focus of Holocaust discussions will not be on the specifics of the atrocities that occurred, but rather understanding some of the reasons for it and how it affects modern Jewish identity. This study of the Holocaust will provide a natural segue to a unit on the creation of the modern state of Israel.

Kitah Vav (Grade 6)

As students are now nearing their bar/bat mitzvahs, much of the emphasis of the Vav year is on making sure the students will be prepared. Preparation focuses on making sure the students will know the service and what they will need to actively participate. But it also focuses on helping these young adults to find personal meaning in their bar/bat mitzvah and to be ready to assume a mature role in the Jewish community.

In Kitah Vav, the prayer & ritual focus is on the Shabbat Torah service, from taking the Torah from the ark, to the reading of the Torah, to returning the Torah to the ark. Students learn to lead all the prayers and melodies of this part of the ritual. In addition to reviewing all prayers learned in earlier years, student in the Vav class are expected to learn the following blessings and prayers: All blessing for the Torah and Haftorah services, Mourner's Kaddish, Ein Keloheynu, Tdakik Hatamar, and Baruch Shehamar. Vav students will be exploring the weekly torah portion for content and pertinent questions and teachings for our own lives.

Holidays continue to be acknowledged and celebrated but there is now an assumption that the students already know much about the basics of holiday meanings and traditions. In the Spring, around Yom Hashoah, students will again discuss the Holocaust. As they are now older, they will learn about the Shoah a bit

more depth, using stories from Ten Thousand Children to increase their understanding of what life was like for children during this time. The students will explore the Museum of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem through books and/or the internet.

Kitah Zayin (Grade 7)

Zayin students meet once a month with the Rabbi to focus on preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah as well as becoming a responsible Jewish adult. The class will prepare students to give their divrei Torah at their bnei mitzvah. In general, the goal is to help students make a deeper personal connection with this major lifecycle event. Students will continue to attend bimonthly Learner's Services on Sunday morning, now taking an increasing leadership role in the service. Students will also continue to participate in all school-wide events, such as the Chanukah Party, Model Seder, and Purim Celebration, again taking on more leadership roles..

Meeting Times and Location

All classes are held at the Ashland Middle School, at 87 West Union Street, Ashland, MA. Classes meet according to the following schedule. A full calendar is posted at www.shaareishalom.org/hebrewschool.html. Please note that our calendar follows both the Jewish Holiday calendar and the public school calendar for holidays and vacations because our classes are held in a public school building.

Preschool

One Sunday morning each month from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Gan Yaladeem (Kindergarten)

One Sunday morning each month from 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Ketah Alef (Grade 1)

Two Sundays per month from 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Ketah Bet (Grade 2)

Every Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ketah Gimel to Ketah Vov (Grades 3 to 6)

Two Sundays per month 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. – Sunday morning Learners services (per the school calendar)

Every Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday afternoon from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Ketah Zayin (Grade 7)

Two Sundays per month 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. – Sunday morning Learners services (per the school calendar)

One Sunday morning per month 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Class Attendance Requirements

Children are required to arrive at classes at least five (5) minutes before class so that we can begin our classes on time. For educational continuity and knowledge, students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, the required Hebrew School Friday Evening Services, and Sunday Morning Learning Services (Grades 3-7).

The student's teacher should be notified if the student will be absent. Excessive absences may result in academic probation, private tutoring at additional cost, or in the student not being promoted to the next grade.

Friday Night Shabbat Service Attendance Requirements

In addition, students in Grades 1 - 7 are required to attend additional Sha'arei Shalom Friday Evening Services equal to their grade level (see table below).

Attendance will be taken at services conducted by our Temple.

Grade	Friday Night Service Attendance Requirements
Aleph (grade 1)	1
Bet (grade 2)	2
Gimel (grade 3)	3
Dalet (grade 4)	4
Hey (grade 5)	5
Vov (grade 6)	8
Zayin (grade 7)	8

Homework Requirements

Students are expected to complete homework assignments and to be prepared for their classes with the appropriate books and school materials. Students are expected to record their homework assignments in a notebook prior to the end of class. In addition, teachers will post their homework assignments at

<http://www.shaareishalom.org/homework>.

Graduation Requirements

It is expected that students attend through the end of their seventh grade year in order to receive their diploma regardless of their bar/bat mitzvah date.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning

As one of our school's goals is the eventual bar/bat mitzvah of each of the children attending the school, parents of grade 5-6 students will be invited to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah orientation session in the fall to discuss the details of bar/bat mitzvah preparation and to address questions about this exciting event in the life of a Jewish child.

Parent Responsibilities

- Please let the teachers know of anything in your child's life which may affect his/her school experience, e.g. death of a relative, divorce, illness, new sibling, death of a pet, etc.
- Sunday Classes: Students are expected to be at the Hebrew School and seated in class at 10:00 a.m. Classes end at noon. Prompt pick-up is expected.
- Sunday Morning Learners Services: Students are expected to be seated and ready to begin class by 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Classes: Classes begin promptly at 4:30 p.m and students are expected to be in their seats at this time. Classes end at 6:00 p.m. Prompt pick-up is expected.
- For families of students Preschool through Grade 2, please plan to park your car and come into your child's class to pick up your child. Children at these grade levels are not allowed to leave with their older siblings.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is prepared for class (homework done, materials for next class ready, etc.).
- Parents are responsible to make certain that they bring their children to the required number of Friday night services at each grade level in addition to the ensuring participation in the required Friday night service their class is taking a special role in.
- A concern in a classroom should be discussed first with the teacher directly, then with the School Committee Chair if necessary. Unresolved issues will be addressed by the School Committee.

- If your child is going to miss a class, the teacher should be notified in advance if possible. Parents are encouraged to use email or telephone.
- Please note that food and drink are not allowed in classrooms. Please do not send your children to Hebrew School with these items.
- Challah and juice are served on Sunday mornings as snack. Families are responsible for signing up to bring Challah and juice for their class.
- Ipods, cell phones and other distractions to the class are not to be used during Hebrew School classes.

Parental Visits

Parents who are interested in observing their child's class should contact the teacher to arrange a mutually agreeable date. However, please allow time in the beginning of the school year for the teachers and children to establish a successful relationship.

Tuition

Unless other arrangements have been made with the Treasurer, the balance of tuition is due before School begins.

Healthcare

1. Hebrew School Registration form must be completed to register for Hebrew School. This form contains all emergency and healthcare information.
2. Please do not send sick children to class.
3. If a child becomes ill during class, the parents must provide transportation home as soon as possible.
4. If your child has an allergy, please give complete details in writing on the Registration form. If your child is being medicated, please provide the treatment before class. We are unable to administer medication under any circumstances; parents are invited in to school to meet a child's need for medication.

Accident/Emergency

In the event of an accident or sudden illness, a school committee member or the classroom teacher may take any of the following steps:

1. Contact the parents to arrange for treatment or transportation.
2. If parents cannot be reached, the person listed as the emergency contact will be contacted.
3. Contact the local ambulance service for transportation to Metrowest Medical Center, Framingham. A staff member with any pertinent health information will accompany the child.
4. In case of emergency, parents can phone either the cell phones of Lisa Clay, School Committee Chair. Lisa Clay: 774-573-3319

Notice of School Cancellation

If classes are canceled on a Sunday due to inclement weather, the School Committee will make the decision by 7:30 a.m. and parents will be notified by telephone by their classroom teacher. Whenever Ashland Public School evening classes are canceled because of inclement weather, Hebrew School is also canceled. Make-up sessions are planned for in calendar and will be announced at a later date.

Code of Conduct

All children are expected to be respectful of other people and property. Occasionally, a student will have difficulties adjusting to the school environment. Students who show consistent patterns of not conforming will be called in for a parent-teacher conference. If the problems continue, a meeting with the parents, teacher and School Committee will be held with the possible ultimate suspension. The following practices are forbidden: corporal punishment (including spanking), cruel or severe punishment/humiliation/verbal abuse and denial of food.

Contact List

Rabbi

Rabbi Margie Klein, margieklein1@gmail.com

Teachers

Name	Grade	Tel	Email
Ari Kaufman	K	H 508-881-6930 C 617-504-0754	arikaufman@comcast.net
Lucy Tannen	1-2	C 508-241-9368	lucytannen@gmail.com
Wilma Oskar	3	C 508-641-3485	wilmasusan@yahoo.com
Toni Spitzer	4-5	H 508-429-2087 C 508-615-1811	tonispitzer@comcast.net
Abby Leibel	5	H 508-881-6025 C 617-549-2663	ab4me@yahoo.com
Steve Kraus	6	H 508-429-4290 C 774-245-7923	pskraus0716@aol.com

School Committee

Name	Tel	Email
Lisa Clay (Chair)	H 508-485-1376 C 774-573-3319	lcc1129@yahoo.com
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