



June 8, 2016

Dear Temple Beth El Religious School Families:

I hope you will take the time to read this letter carefully as there are some exciting new changes to our program for the 2017-2018 school year. Read on to learn about:

- **School Registration Information: We're Going Electronic!**
- **Time Change for Weekday Religious School**
- **Tuesday Religious School Make-up Opportunity**
- **4th-6th Grade Retreat**
- **DISC – Our New STEAM Curriculum**
- **Mitzvah Day Contributions**
- **Tuition**

School Registration Information: We're Going Electronic! - This year, all 2017-2018 registrations will be electronic. We will not be mailing forms. We're going green! You will find links to registration and our [parent volunteer form](#), as well as the [school calendar](#) in this letter, Parent Update emails and on the TBE website. We hope you will complete the forms electronically but you are welcome to print them, fill them out and send them in. Either way, **please fill out the forms completely and make sure to get them in by July 14th**, the deadline for classmate and session/weekday requests. After the deadline, no classmate requests can be honored and session/weekday requests will be honored as space allows. Registration forms are processed in the order they are received as long as your TBE Sacred Gift commitment and Temple account are current. If you need to make your Sacred Gift commitment, please contact [Candace Naliboff](#), Director of Member Services. If we are unable to accommodate your session or weekday choice, you will be notified immediately. There is no deadline for enrollment, only requests. We have room for every student!

Time Change for Weekday Religious School - Many of our students are attending schools all over the city, with many different dismissal times and it has become increasingly difficult for students to get to weekday Religious School on time. After much deliberation and discussion with the TBE leadership and the TBE Religious School committee, we are changing the times for weekday classes from 4:45pm - 6:15pm to **5:00pm – 6:30pm**. I am hopeful that the extra fifteen minutes will take some of the pressure off getting students from secular school to Religious School on time. After 6:30pm, Providence Road is less congested and should make for a faster trip home. As always, we will welcome our students whenever they are able to get here.

Tuesday Religious School Make-up Opportunity - Another obstacle that many of our parents have to deal with is trying to balance weekday Religious School with their children's other activities. Many extra-curricular programs are scheduled at the same time as Religious School. I have really struggled with this over the years and tried very hard to help our families find ways to be able to attend school and participate in their other activities. Sometimes the conflicts are just for a season and sometimes they are in conflict for the entire year. Sometimes students must miss Religious School because they are ill or have school assignments that cause them to be out for a few weeks. I know that our parents are genuinely committed to their children's Jewish education and I want to be able to offer some flexibility that will help resolve some of these conflicts and will also insure that our students are continuing to make progress with their learning, so we are adding a Tuesday make-up opportunity.

The Tuesday program will offer drop-in, make-up classes that will allow students to come on a Tuesday afternoon from 5:00pm - 6:30pm, in place of their assigned weekday class. Tuesday classes will follow the Religious School schedule and meet the same weeks as the Monday/Wednesday classes. The goal is to make this a very low barrier program offering parents an opportunity to bring their students to make-up classes when they are unable to make their assigned times. There is no need to sign up ahead of time. You can just come and there will be teachers ready to work with students. There will be a class for third graders who are learning to read. There will be a class for students who need to miss from time to time and will use their regular text book to complete make-up work. There will also be a class for students who must miss for an extended period of time due to a sports season, school play or other long-term activity. This class will use a self-paced, independent study Hebrew/prayer curriculum. This program will help identify each student's strengths and challenges and allow them to work through the curriculum at their own pace. All classes will be led by a member of our Religious School faculty. If you have any questions or comments about the Tuesday program, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to talk to you.

4th-6th Grade Retreat – Camp Thunderbird, here we come! On the weekend of April 13th-15th, 2018, all 4th, 5th and 6th graders will head to Camp Thunderbird for a weekend of adventure, worship and learning, connecting and community building. Led by Rabbi Dusty Klass and an enthusiastic and creative team of educators and madrichim, students will have a Shabbat experience that will be the highlight of the year. We will begin the weekend late Friday afternoon with Shabbat dinner and end after breakfast on Sunday. There will be no Religious School for those grades on April 15th. Detailed retreat information will be coming your way in early fall.

DISC – Our New STEAM Curriculum – TBE Religious School will be adding a STEAM curriculum to our kindergarten – 4th grade program. DISC, *Discovering Israel through STEAM Careers*, is a cutting edge program that will give students the opportunity to explore Israel through a modern-day lens and a focus on Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). This program offers high interest topics for young students making it an effective vehicle to teach about Israel. The hands-on and creative approach will help students connect to Israel in a new and exciting way.

Mitzvah Day Contributions – Each year, families are asked to help provide contributions to support our Mitzvah Day projects. This past year our families came through with flying colors! I am so grateful and the lunches, summer fun packs, hospital gift bags and art supplies we provided to the recipient agencies made a huge difference in the lives of those they support. Again this year, you have the opportunity to make a monetary contribution on your registration form to save you from having to shop for items during the busy spring months. We will do the shopping for you! It's a win-win! Projects are fully supplied and all you have to do is show up on Mitzvah Day, May 6, 2018 and help heal the world!

Tuition - Tuition covers Religious School and KATANTY K-2, KATANTY 3-5 and LIBERTY 76 (youth group) registration. All Religious School students are members of TBE's outstanding youth program. I hope every student will take the opportunity to attend the events planned throughout the year. Youth group experiences help our young students connect socially and Jewishly to our TBE and Charlotte community.

Finances should never be a barrier to Jewish education and we are committed to helping any family who needs support. Requests are confidential and no one in the Religious School office will have that information. Families who are in need of financial assistance are welcome to contact [Candace Naliboff](#), Director of Member Services, to arrange for financial assistance.

Temple Beth El Religious School will begin on Sunday, September 10, 2017. You will receive class assignments in early September.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, I would love to hear from you. Please email school inquiries to [Susan Jacobs](#) or [Tracey Lederer](#) and KATANTY (youth group) inquiries to [Sam Swire](#), Director of Youth Engagement. Forms may be turned in to the Temple or Religious School offices. Students will be registered when Sacred Gift and Temple accounts are in good standing. The entire Temple Beth El Religious School and Youth Engagement department wishes you a happy and safe summer.

L'shalom,
Susan Jacobs
Director of Education
Temple Beth El