

TEMPLE SINAI Religious School



Parent Handbook and
Religious School Calendar
2009-2010/5769-5770

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A Note from Rabbi Vogel

When Jewish children would first be brought to learn Hebrew in cheder, often a one-room schoolhouse in the Eastern European shtetl, the pages of their Hebrew alphabet primers would be dabbed with honey. After mastering a letter, first aleph, then bet, one by one until the letter tav, a five- or six-year old child would get to celebrate each letter's mastery by licking the page and tasting the sweet honey as a reward, and thus be highly motivated to continue to the next level of Jewish learning.

That is our approach at Temple Sinai: Jewish learning should be sweet. As our children, our most precious treasures, learn to live their lives as Jews their Jewish learning should be enjoyable. The lessons they learn should give them good guidance to understand the sacred qualities of the path of life. They should be enveloped by the sweet loving care of their community, their teachers and fellow students. Jewish learning should be personally rewarding, reminding us of how good it is to be connected to our ancient tradition and its rituals and ethics, to our fellow Jews everywhere in the world, and to all humanity.

Bearing these goals in mind—and the sweet pages of the Eastern European cheder books—our congregation has built a religious school program that nurtures each child and family along a path of Jewish learning and living. I hope your entire family will be personally engaged and enriched by our religious school program.

A blessing from the morning service in our prayer book makes this request of God: “May the words of Torah always be sweet to us, and to the whole House of Israel, that we and our children may be lovers of Your Name and students of Your Torah.” May the Torah you and your child/ren learn here at Temple Sinai be sweet.



Rabbi Andy Vogel

Welcome from the Director of Education

At Temple Sinai, we are proud of the educational network established to enrich our children from their very youngest years through Bar and Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation and beyond. Our curriculum emphasizes the basics of Torah, Hebrew reading and comprehension skills, social action and Jewish studies. We cultivate a hands-on approach to learning, with parents taking an active role with children at family events and Shabbat services.



Every year we tackle a new theme at the religious school. Last year it was *Bal Tash'chit*, or “preserving the earth.” This year we will be focusing on the mitzvah of *Gemilut Chasadim*, or “deeds of loving-kindness.” Students of all ages will come to understand that the world stands on three pillars; on Torah, on worship and on *Gemilut Chasadim*. Our curriculum contains ample opportunities for children to perform acts of *chesed*, or “kindness.” This year we are especially proud to participate in B'nai TELEM, a social justice and service learning program for *b'nai mitzvah* students. An innovative program for Boston area Jewish teenagers, B'nai TELEM integrates community service, learning and reflection with visits to nursing homes, after-school literacy programs, and shelters.

This year in an initiative aimed at parents, we will introduce different aspects of the religious school curriculum through a series of adult classes taught by Rabbi Vogel and family educator, Sandi Intraub. These “Parents as Partners” sessions will take place on selected Sunday mornings, and will cover such topics as the prophets, Jerusalem, the Shema, the environment, and the Joseph narrative. Families in Grade Five will embark upon a new *Beit Midrash* program where parents and children will study Torah together. We are also pleased to launch a new *Rosh Hodesh* group for girls to celebrate the New Moon, while helping our students strengthen self-esteem and Jewish identity.

The Education Committee, faculty and I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the school year. We understand that ultimately the success and long-term impact of what happens in our educational program is directly connected to what happens at home. After all, you are your son or daughter's primary Jewish teachers. So, be a visible reminder to your child that you are an active participant and learner in the synagogue community. We welcome your participation!

B'Shalom,

Heidi Smith Hyde, Director of Education

Vision Statement

Temple Sinai honors individual journeys of Judaism, joyfully embracing and connecting our members in community. We are enriched by engaging in life-long study of Torah, in seeking holiness through meaningful worship and in bringing justice, healing and caring to our world. We each aspire to deepen communications, broaden commitments, and gain inspiration, bound only by the limits of our dreams.

Religious School Calendar 2009-2010

SEPTEMBER

Friday	September 4	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Friday	September 11	Shabbat @ 6
Sunday	September 13	First Day of School for Grades K-7 9:30-12:30 p.m. Parent Meeting 9:45-10:45 a.m. Committee Fair 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday	September 15	First Tuesday for Grades 3-10 3:45-5:30 p.m. for Grades 3-7 6:30-8:30 p.m. for Grades 8-10
Saturday	September 19	Rosh Hashanah Program for Pre-K-Gr. 5 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children's Service (ages 2-7) at 2:15-3:15 p.m.
Sunday	September 20	No Religious School
Sunday	September 27	Synagogue Hike 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Blue Hills
Monday	September 28	K'tonton Pre-School 10:00-12:00 Yom Kippur Program for Pre-K-Gr. 5 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children's Service (ages 2-7) at 1:45-2:45 p.m.
Tuesday	September 29	School as usual

OCTOBER

Friday	October 2	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	October 4	Grade 4 Family Program 9:30-12:30 Grade 6,7 Parent Meeting 9:45-10:30
Friday	October 9	Simchat Torah Celebration & Consecration 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Sunday	October 11	No School—Columbus Day Weekend
Sunday	October 19	Kindergarten Family Program 9:30-11:30 Education Committee Meeting 9:45 K'tonton Pre-School 10:00-12:00
Tuesday	October 20	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30-8:30
Friday	October 23	Grade 5 Class Shabbat 7:30
Sunday	October 25	Grade 1 Family Program 9:30-11:30 Scrappy Youth Event (Gr. 3-5) 12:30
Tuesday	October 27	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30-8:30
Saturday	October 31	Daylight Savings —turn clocks back!

NOVEMBER

Sunday	November 1	Jr. SCOOBY Event (Gr. 6-8) 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday	November 3	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30-8:30
Friday	November 6	Gr. 5-6 Camp Eisner Shabbaton thru Sat. Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	November 8	Grade 7 Paper Midrash Event 10:00-11:00

Tuesday	November 10	Grade 7 Nursing Home Visit Grade 11, 12 class 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Friday	November 13	Shabbat @ 6
Sunday	November 15	Gradr 4 Family Program 9:30–11:30 K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00 p.m. Mitzvah Day Meeting 11:30–12:30
Sunday	November 22	Grade 3 Family Program 9:30–11:30
Tuesday	November 24	Grade 6 Nursing Home Visit
Sunday	November 29	No School—Thanksgiving Weekend

DECEMBER

Friday	December 4	Grade 10 Trip to NYC thru 12/6 Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Grade 4 Class Shabbat 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	December 6	Grade 2 Family Program 9:30–11:30 a.m. Gr. 4-7 Parents' Visiting Day 12:00 p.m.
Friday	December 11	Shabbat @ 6; Junior Choir Performance Chanukah Shabbat Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	December 13	Grade 7 Family Program 9:30–11:30 a.m. K'tonton Pre School 10:00–12:00 Gr. K–3 Parents Visiting Day 12:00 SCRAPPY Youth Event (Gr.3-5) 12:30 Jr. SCOOBY Event (Gr. 6-8) 12:30
Sunday	December 20	Grade 6,7 Field Trip to Cradles 2 Crayons Grade 5 Family Program 9:30–11:30 Education Committee Meeting 9:45 a.m. Mitzvah Day Meeting 11:30-12:30
Sunday, Tuesday	December 27, 29	No School—Winter Vacation

JANUARY

Friday	January 1	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	January 3	No School—Winter Vacation
Friday	January 8	Shabbat @ 6, Grade 6 Class Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	January 9	K Family Havdalah 6:00–7:30 p.m.
Sunday	January 10	K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00
Sunday	January 17	No School—MLK Weekend
Tuesday	January 29	Grade 6 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation #2 4:30–5:45 p.m. with parents
Saturday	January 23	Grade 5 Family Shabbat 10:30 a.m.
Sunday	January 24	Grade 4 Family Program 9:30–11:30
Tuesday	January 26	Grade 6 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation #2 4:30–5:45 p.m. with parents
Sunday	January 31	Grade 2 Family Program 9:30–11:30 Mitzvah Day Meeting 11:30–12:30

FEBRUARY

Tuesday	February 2	Grade 6 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation #3
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		4:30–5:45 p.m. with parents
Friday	February 5	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	February 7	Gr. 5 Family Program 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Friday	February 12	Shabbat @ 6
Sun., Tues., Sun	February 14, 16, 21	No School—February Vacation
Tuesday	February 23	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30–8:30
Friday	February 26	Junior Choir Performance 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	February 27	Family Purim Celebration 5:45 p.m. Purim Shpiel! 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	February 28	Education Committee Meeting 9:45 a.m. K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00 SCRAPPY Youth Event (Gr. 3–5) 12:30

MARCH

Tuesday	March 2	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30–8:30
Friday	March 5	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	March 7	Grade 3 Family Mask Making 9:30–11:30 Mitzvah Day Meeting 11:30–12:30 Jr. SCOOBY Event (Gr. 6–8) 12:30
Tuesday	March 9	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30–8:30
Friday	March 12	Shabbat @ 6
Saturday	March 13	Gr. 3 <i>Siyyum HaSefer</i> Service 10:00 a.m. Daylight Savings —turn clocks ahead!
Sunday	March 14	Grade 7 Family Collages 9:30–11:00
Tuesday	March 16	Grade 11, 12 class 6:30–8:30
Saturday	March 20	Grade 4 Family Shabbat 10:00
Sunday	March 21	K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00 Mitzvah Day 12:00
Friday	March 26	Grade 5 Class Shabbat 7:30
Sunday	March 28	SCRAPPY Youth Event (Gr.3–5) 12:30
Tuesday	March 30	No School—Pesach

APRIL

Friday	April 2	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Junior Choir Performance 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	April 3	Grade 6 Family Shabbat 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	April 4	Jr. SCOOBY Event (Gr. 6-8) 12:30
Tuesday	April 6	No School—Pesach
Friday	April 9	Shabbat @ 6 Youth Group Shabbat Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	April 11	Grade 1 Family Program 9:30–11:30 Education Committee Meeting 9:45 a.m. K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00
Tuesday	April 13	Grade 6 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation #3 4:30–5:45 p.m. with parents
Sun., Tues., Sun.	April 18, 20, 25	No School—Spring Vacation

MAY

Saturday	May 1	Grade 4 Family Shabbat 10:00 a.m.
Sunday	May 2	Walk for Hunger School in Session
Friday	May 7	Tot Shabbat 6:30 p.m.
Sunday	May 9	K'tonton Pre-School 10:00–12:00
Tuesday	May 11	Last Session for Grades 8–10
Sunday	May 16	Religious School Registration Day
Tuesday	May 18	Confirmation Supper 5:45 p.m. Grade 10 Confirmation 7:00
Friday	May 21	Grade 12 Service 7:30 p.m.
Sunday	May 23	Religious School Registration Day End -of-Year Assembly 11:30–12:30 Last Session Grades K–7

Have a Warm & Wonderful Summer!

Religious School Hours

Sunday 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (Grades K–7); **Tuesday** 3:45 p.m.–5:30 p.m. (Grades 3–7); 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. (Grades 8–10); Grade 11, 12 meets on selected **Tuesday** evenings

Social Action

The concepts of Tzedakah (justice), Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness), and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), the most fundamental of mitzvot, serve as an integral part of our curriculum. All students participate in social action activities throughout the year. These projects raise relevant social issues and create a feeling of connectedness within the community and the world at large. Whether it is delivering Purim gift baskets to seniors, or creating educational flashcards for Jewish school children in the Ukraine, social action is approached with a spirit of joy, promoting caring through heartfelt mitzvot. All children are encouraged to bring tzedakah on a regular basis, and to contribute non-perishable food items for Family Table, the Boston area's Jewish food pantry. Donations this year will include **raisins** and **graham crackers**. All families are encouraged to participate in our congregational-wide Mitzvah Day in the spring.

K'tonton Pre-School Program

Every month on a Sunday morning, we offer a two-hour “kids only” program for three and four-year olds. Participants are introduced to Jewish holidays through arts and crafts, music, stories, drama and games. The children are encouraged to ask questions, share experiences, sing and make new friends. K'tonton is free and open to the community. The program will meet from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on 9/27, 10/18, 11/15, 12/13, 1/10, 2/28, 3/21, 4/11, 5/9.

“Shabbat @ 6” Services

Join us in the Sanctuary on the 2nd Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for a one-hour Erev Shabbat service for the entire family. This new monthly service allows those who are unable to attend services at the regular time to join us. Families are encouraged to attend the “Shabbat @ 6” service, and then enjoy Shabbat dinner at each other’s homes. This is a great way to build community and make new friends.

Tot Shabbat Services

Tot Shabbat is a service tailored for children, ages 2–5. Join the Rabbi and Cantor for a joyful and engaging Shabbat service every month with singing and a Shabbat story, followed by Kiddush and challah. Tot Shabbat is free and open to the community. It will take place from 6:30 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, excluding July and August.

Class Shabbat Services

Shabbat service attendance is an essential part of your child’s religious school education. Throughout the year, we offer opportunities for children to participate in the Shabbat experience. At selected Friday evening services, the children perform songs, recite original poetry and share their perspectives of the Torah portion of the week. On selected Saturday mornings, students showcase their Hebrew prayer reading skills. Twice a month, students in Grades 3–7 participate in a Tefillah service with Rabbi Vogel and Cantor Toubes.

Family Programs

At Temple Sinai, parents have many opportunities to interact with their children in religious school, enriching their understanding of Judaism and how to live a Jewish life. Together families will explore holidays, history, culture and ritual. Our programs celebrate Jewish learning and the performance of mitzvot, all the while creating opportunities for families to spend quality time with one another at the synagogue. This year we will offer many parallel learning programs where parents can study and learn with Rabbi Vogel.

Music

Music is a vital part of the curriculum. Every Sunday morning, students in Grades K–7 learn new songs, prayers and melodies under the careful guidance of our music teacher, Daniel Ruben. These weekly sessions help prepare students for Shabbat services, school assemblies and holiday celebrations. Music reinforces classroom material, and is a special favorite of students and faculty alike. Some Sunday morning sessions will also be devoted to Israeli dancing.

Curriculum Guide

Overview

Kindergarten Focuses on Jewish holidays, Jewish home and family life, aleph-bet letter recognition, *mitzvot* and Torah. Arts and crafts are an important part of the lesson.

Grade One Focuses on Torah, *mitzvot*, holidays and blessings, plus a reading readiness program to introduce students to the names and sounds of the Hebrew letters.

Grade Two In addition to studying holidays, blessings, Hebrew vocabulary and Torah, students are introduced to Hebrew vowels and begin to develop decoding skills.

Grade Three Students will learn to read and write Hebrew in preparation for their *Siyum Ha Sefer* service. Curriculum also includes music, Torah and Israel geography.

Grade Four Students expand Hebrew reading and writing skills, and study holidays, music, ethics, *midrash*, and current events. Students will also explore the ancient prophets.

Grade Five Focus is on Torah and will include three study sessions with parents. Other topics are current events, *menschlekeit*, music and Israel. Modern Hebrew will be introduced.

Grade Six Students will explore the new B'nai TELEM curriculum and participate in six *Tikkun Olam* projects. History, Israel and Modern Hebrew will be emphasized.

Grade Seven Students will explore the new B'nai TELEM curriculum and participate in six *Tikkun Olam* projects. Hebrew, Torah and Modern Jewish history will be emphasized.

High School Grades 8–12 Choosing from a variety of topics, students will examine the pertinent issues they face in their daily lives as Jews. Grades 10 – 12 will study with Rabbi Vogel.

Enrichment Activities

- ✧ Bedtime Shema family event
- ✧ “My Hebrew Name” workshop
- ✧ Family Shabbat dinner
- ✧ Weekly music with Daniel
- ✧ Monthly Tot Shabbat services

- ✧ Israel themed family events
- ✧ Parent education programs
- ✧ Family Shabbat dinner
- ✧ Weekly music with Daniel
- ✧ Monthly Tot Shabbat services

- ✧ Family *Tu B'Shevat* seder
- ✧ Ethics workshop
- ✧ Parent education programs
- ✧ Family Shabbat dinner
- ✧ Weekly music with Daniel

- ✧ “Blessings” family program
- ✧ Parent education programs
- ✧ *Tefillah* with Cantor Toubes
- ✧ Family Shabbat dinner
- ✧ SCRAPPY youth group

- ✧ Parent education programs
- ✧ Class Shabbat presentations
- ✧ Family Shabbat dinner
- ✧ *Tefillah* with Cantor Toubes
- ✧ SCRAPPY youth group

- ✧ Shabbaton at Camp Eisner
- ✧ *Beit Midrash* program
- ✧ Class Shabbat presentations
- ✧ *Tefillah* with Rabbi Vogel
- ✧ SCRAPPY youth group

- ✧ Shabbaton at Camp Eisner
- ✧ B'nei Mitzvah Workshops
- ✧ Class Shabbat presentations
- ✧ *Tefillah* with Rabbi Vogel
- ✧ Junior SCOOPY youth group

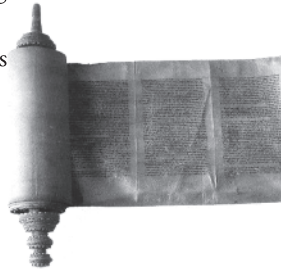
- ✧ Family Torah workshop
- ✧ Class Shabbat presentations
- ✧ Parent education programs
- ✧ *Tefillah* with Rabbi Vogel
- ✧ Junior SCOOPY youth group

- ✧ Parent/teenager seminars
- ✧ Dinners in Coolidge Corner
- ✧ *Tikkun Olam* projects
- ✧ “Madrich” teacher aid program
- ✧ SCOOPY youth group

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Experience

As Jewish young men and young women approach age 13, they are asked to consider how their roles are about to change over a long, long time. At Temple Sinai, Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a type of “gateway” to adulthood, and as our teens pass through it, they try on new ideas about adulthood, new behaviors of responsibility, and new skills that will lead them to a firm Jewish identity when they finally reach adulthood.

At Temple Sinai, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah training process should give teens life-long skills towards becoming an adult Jew. As teens enter through this gateway, they “try on” the mitzvot, the variety of commandments of Jewish tradition that all adults should study and perform.



THE PROCESS

Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are encouraged to study Torah and interpret it in a D'var Torah they will present to the congregation. Building their life-long synagogue skills, students also learn the basic structure of a Shabbat morning service and lead some parts in all of it, not just in the Torah Service section, so they may walk into nearly any synagogue in the world and be comfortable, knowing “where they are” in the service. Students are asked to be involved in a project of social justice or Tikkun Olam, bringing repair to the world. And, last, students are asked to study the wide array of mitzvot in Jewish tradition, not just the ethical commandments, but also those commandments that involve ritual and study, by completing an “Exploring Mitzvot” curriculum. This way, Bar/Bat mitzvah is more than a presentation of leading the service, showing what students have accomplished before their family and friends; it is also a preparation for life-long Jewish involvement and meaning in which students gain understanding of a wide variety of Jewish behaviors, learning and doing.

In the 6th grade year, parents and students participate in three “pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah workshop” sessions, led by Rabbi Vogel and Cantor Toubes. Formal training begins about 10-12 months before your child’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah date with an initial meeting with Rabbi Vogel, who will assign all parts for the service, Torah and Haftarah reading, and the “Exploring Mitzvot” curriculum, and provide your family with names of appropriate tutors for your child. Typically, children meet with a tutor weekly for about 9-10 months for their training. Rabbi Vogel and Cantor Toubes are involved throughout this period, checking in on your child’s progress and holding a final rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH AND BEYOND

Students who have participated in a minimum of four years of religious school at Temple Sinai (or another comparable synagogue religious school) are eligible for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Because Jewish learning is a life-long practice that never ceases to enrich us as Jews, the long-standing expectation of our congregation is that students will continue their Jewish education at Temple Sinai through the 10th grade Confirmation year, and beyond. Students and parents are asked to make a commitment to continue in our religious school program through the 10th grade year.

Services in which a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is celebrated are held on Shabbat mornings only. Temple Sinai does not hold Saturday evening Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies. During planning for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration, you may have a variety of questions. For questions regarding Bar/Bat Mitzvah training, issues around the Shabbat service, or roles of family members during the service, please ask Rabbi Vogel. For questions regarding rental of the synagogue facilities or other fees, please contact our temple administrator, Linda Katz. For questions regarding the 6th and 7th grade curricula, please contact Heidi Smith Hyde. We will be happy to address any concerns or questions you may have.

Tuesday Evening High School Program

On Tuesday evening, students in Grades 8–10 become engaged at an adult level of learning and discussion. Teens are presented with a variety of curriculum options, and may choose an individualized program of study. They regularly have dinner together, building a strong community of lifelong friends. The high school program traditionally culminates in the 10th Grade Confirmation Class, taught by Rabbi Vogel. Confirmation students choose a topic, prepare an in-depth paper, and present their work to the Education Committee during a celebratory Shavuot service that they conduct themselves, drawing on personal expressions and styles. Post Confirmation students in 11th and 12th Grade meet eight times a year on a Tuesday evening to maintain the connections they have forged, and discuss issues relevant to Jewish teens today.



Madrich (Teacher Assistant) Program

Students in Grades 8–12 are eligible to participate in the Madrich program on Sunday mornings and/or Tuesday afternoons. Madrichim assist classroom teachers in a number of different capacities, such as general clerical duties, one-on-one Hebrew tutoring, helping with a crafts project, or reading Torah stories aloud to the class.

Junior Youth Groups

SCRAPPY and Junior SCOOPY, Temple Sinai's junior youth groups for Grades 3–8, provide a positive first experience with youth programming. Children will enjoy fun after-school activities, such as Israeli dancing, cooking, social action projects and Sunday afternoon field trips to kosher restaurants and other destinations.

Senior Youth Group

SCOOPY gives Jewish teens a way to connect with one another in a social and informal educational setting. Students in Grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to participate in monthly programs that are offered throughout the school year, such as snow tubing, watching Patriots games, enjoying a barbecue at Rabbi Vogel's house, or collecting items to donate to a local shelter. SCOOPY is part of a national organization, the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY). NFTY gatherings include Jewish teens from all over New England who come together in a social setting to learn a thing or two about being Jewish in today's world.



Passport to Israel

A summer experience in Israel is a wonderful way for students to integrate their years of Jewish education with their own developing sense of Jewish identity. The Myra and Robert Kraft “Passport to Israel” program unites families, congregations and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) in a partnership to help make an Israel experience a part of your child's Jewish education. It is a special kind of savings plan, in which you enroll your child in third or seventh grade. Once your son or daughter is eligible to participate, you will be notified by the Director of Education. Questions? Contact parent coordinator, Rachel Rubin, at rachelrubin@gmail.com. You may also contact parent ambassador, Mike Klau, at mikeronat@aol.com.

Jewish Summer Camp

A summer camp experience can help strengthen a child's growing Jewish identity. At Temple Sinai, children are encouraged to explore the Union for Reform Judaism's co-ed overnight camps located in the Berkshires. URJ offers a unique Jewish experience for children in Grades 1–10, blending informal education with sports, arts and culture. For more information about Crane Lake and Eisner Camps, visit www.URJneCamps.org. Scholarships are available by contacting the camp of your choice directly.

Attendance

In order to achieve our educational goals and create a cohesive community, it is important that students participate in the program on a regular basis. Children should arrive to class on time. Lateness is disruptive to your child, the other learners and the teacher. We also expect students to remain in class until dismissal, except in the case of an emergency or when prior arrangements have been made.

Dismissal Procedures

Young children in Kindergarten through Grade Two should be picked up in the classroom by a parent. All other students wait inside the school to be picked up. For the safety of our children, students will not be permitted to wait outside of the building unless accompanied by the Director of Education. Older children may receive written permission to walk home.

Early Dismissal

We realize that it is sometimes necessary for your child to miss school or leave early. In such cases, please call the office in advance so that we may notify the teachers, or send the student to school with a note. Children who are dismissed early will wait in the classroom until a parent arrives to pick them up.

Inclement Weather School Closings

In the event we have to cancel school due to inclement weather, we will post an announcement on the religious school answering machine. On Sundays only, you may tune in to WBZ News Radio 1030, CBS 4, WRKO AM/680, and Channel 7 News. If the Brookline Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, religious school and the Tuesday evening high school will be closed, as well.

Emergency Evacuation Site

As an institution, it is important we have a plan in place in the unlikely event we ever have to evacuate the building. Reasons for evacuation could include a fire or a chemical spill several blocks away. Temple Sinai's evacuation site is the Holiday Inn at 1200 Beacon Street in Brookline. In the unlikely event of an emergency, the faculty and administration will transport the children to the Holiday Inn and remain with them until all parents are notified and are able to pick them up.

Discipline

Religious school teachers approach disciplinary issues positively, with the understanding that there is no such thing as a “bad child.” Redirection is often all a child needs to move past a difficult situation. The Education Director works closely with teachers to focus on positive disciplinary strategies, and when needed, parents are consulted. Serious behaviors that continue to affect the learning process are dealt with at the discretion of the Education Director under the guidance of Temple Sinai’s Education Committee.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available for students who would benefit from the process. At Temple Sinai, we have a Hebrew tutor who works with students individually as well as in small groups. High school seniors are also available to assist younger students with their Hebrew reading.



Progress Reports

School progress reports will be issued twice a year in January and May. Follow-up visits with the teachers may be arranged, if necessary.

Guests and Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit classes, but advance notice is appreciated. Our school is not equipped to accommodate guest visits from other children, unless arranged in advance with the Director of Education.

Professional Staff

RABBI

Andrew Vogel
rabbivogel@sinaibrookline.org

CANTOR

Rosalie Toubes
cantortoubes@sinaibrookline.org

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Heidi Smith Hyde
school@sinaibrookline.org

ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Katz
administrator@sinaibrookline.org

JEWISH LIFE EDUCATOR

Sandi Intraub
familyeducator@sinaibrookline.org

YOUTH ADVISOR

Elyssa Cohen
youtheducator@sinaibrookline.org

Religious School Faculty

K'tonton Pre-School

Karen Halfon

Kindergarten Rachel Eisenberg

Grade One Erica Gilefsky & Haley
Vinick

Grade Two Rachel Cohen

Grade Three Noa Silver

Grade Four Yael Shuchatowitz
& Rebecca Gil

Grade Five Ariela Shulsinger
& Betsy Miller

Grade Six Ariella Brunwasser

Grade Seven Lisa Stella, Ilana
Snapstailer & Elyssa Cohen

Music Teacher Daniel Ruben

Hebrew Tutors Roe Gilron

High School Lev Nelson
& Elyssa Cohen



Education Committee

The Education Committee meets on selected Sunday mornings throughout the school year to discuss issues related to your child's religious school education. To join the committee, please contact Director of Education, Heidi Smith Hyde, at school@sinaibrookline.org. New members are always welcome!

Abigail Cox, co-chair

Merav Socolovsky, co-chair

Pamela Karmazine Farber

Andy Hyams

Robin Orwant

Doug Reichgott

Dena Sacco

Susan Shelkrot

Rena Sokolow



TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

50 Sewall Avenue

Brookline, MA 02446

Main Number: 617/277-5888

FAX: 617/277-5842

Religious School Office: 617/277-5883

school@sinaibrookline.org

www.sinaibrookline.org • <http://www.sinaibrookline.org>

Member of the Union for Reform Judaism
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