

Congregation Beth Israel Religious School



supportive songs positive Hebrew Jewish
learning kids family inclusive **community** creative
warm educational friendly education culture vibrant friends
tradition edictic friendships organized fun professional engagement academic connection



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL

1972 NW Flanders Street, Portland, OR 97209

www.bethisrael-pdx.org



Dear Families,

Welcome to Congregation Beth Israel Religious School! We are excited to partner with you and your children wherever you are on your family's Jewish journey, and we strive to create experiences with you that are filled with meaning and joy.

Our tradition teaches us to ask questions and to improve our world. We are Israelites, often translated from the Hebrew, "as one who struggles with God." Together we struggle with big questions that face our world and diverse community, and find strength in each other and in the divine. The ever-evolving lens of Reform Judaism gives us a nuanced view of our world and provides us guidance and ideas for building a strong community. Our core value of *b'tzelem elohim*, that we are made in the image of God, provides the framework for our belief in the sanctity of life. We practice *tikkun olam*, repairing our world, through *g'milut chasadim*, acts of love and kindness, and advocate for social justice for all people.

Together we celebrate holidays and *simchas*, joyous occasions such as baby namings, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and weddings, and delve into our deep and colorful Jewish culture. Through visual arts, music, drama, and dance we traverse thousands of years of collected rhythms across our globe. We look from our Jewish past to our Jewish future and at CBI, we write new chapters every day. We are a house of worship, a house of study, a house of gathering, and it is our wish to be a second home for your family.

Whether your family is already enrolled in our Religious School or you are seeking more information, I would love to talk with you about making this school year a great one for your family. Please feel free to give me a call or send me an email anytime: (503)-222-1069 or Ben@bethisrael-pdx.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

B'shalom,

- Ben Sandler M.Ed, Director of Education



**Stop by and visit
CBI Religious
School!**

For more information and to register,
contact our Education Administrator,
Sarah Reiter at (503) 222-1069
or Sarah@bethisrael-pdx.org



Shoshanna, Ben, Sarah

For more information on
our youth groups or midrasha programs,
contact our Director of Youth Engagement,
Shoshanna Pro at (503) 222-1069 or
Shoshanna@bethisrael-pdx.org

"Warm, friendly, Jewish
environment with great
programs and a fantastic
clergy!!"

- CBI parent

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"Our daughter has loved her religious school experience this year. She has made great friends in her classmates, and we have made great friends in their parents. We look forward to Sundays!"

- CBI parent



Our Programs

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PRESCHOOL-GRADE 5)

Sundays, 9:15 am to 12:15 pm

Beth Israel Religious School is for students in preschool through grade 5. The school calendar closely matches Portland Public School's, beginning in September and ending in May.

Our Sunday morning begins in the Main Sanctuary at 9:15 am with *Mishpacha Minyan*, a spirited Family Service full of singing, dancing and energy. Our clergy team of Rabbi Michael Cahana, Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, and Rabbi Rachel Joseph join Education Director Ben Sandler and other musicians to lead this popular service. Parents and younger siblings stay and participate before walking kids over to class.

Specialty Classes and Activities

Our Religious School is an arts-integrated program. Each week, students attend specialty sessions for music, dance, drama and visual arts.

Integrated Hebrew Program (IHP)

Grades 3, 4, and 5 IHP classes meet on Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in addition to regular Religious School on Sunday mornings. Students in this program receive all the regular Hebrew School curriculum as well as learning reading fluency, vocabulary, *t'filot* (prayers) and root word forms. IHP students grow to understand the beauty of the Hebrew language through our "Hineni: Hebrew Through Prayer" curriculum.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDRASHA AND B'NEI MITZVAH PROGRAM (GRADES 6-7)

Sundays, 9:15 am to 12:15 pm

6th and 7th graders meet for two sessions with a *Tefillah*, learning service and oneg, in between. The first session core class works on a range of topics such as Israel, social justice, Jewish history, ethics and identity. The second session are the B'nei Mitzvah Studies with Cantor Cahana, peer tutors, and experienced Hebrew teachers. After B'nei mitzvah, students enter the Mitzvah Makers social action class.

HIGH SCHOOL MIDRASHA (GRADES 8-12)

Sundays, 12:15 pm to 2:15 pm

8th grade and High School students are ready for the next step on their Jewish Journey, and to begin establishing their leadership within our community. They start their day with lunch and socializing with friends and then break off by grade to explore subjects such as Jewish identity, comparative religions, Jewish history and social justice. Our clergy team serve on faculty for our teens!

YOUTH GROUPS (GRADES 6-12)

Get involved with Beth Israel's two Youth Groups: PARTY (Portland Area Reform Temple Youth) for High School Students and Dor Chadash (New Generation) for Middle School Students! Spend time with friends and make new ones at fun activities such as hikes, overnights, field trips and outings. In addition, there are opportunities for teens to become national leaders through NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) and travel both regionally and nationally to events.

CAMP SABABA (GRADES K-5 AND 8-9)

Camp Sababa is the best and only Reform Jewish day camp in Portland! We welcome all children entering grades kindergarten through 5, with a special leadership program for teenagers entering grades 8 and 9. Camp Sababa features creative and fun morning activities on campus at CBI with afternoon field trips exploring the greater Portland area.

Religious School Classes

GAN Preschool	<p>Our Jewish world is brought to the classroom through a hands-on approach to synagogue life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Family traditions and holiday celebrations ♦ Arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music, drama and play ♦ Family Programs - K: Shabbat & Chanukkah; Pre-K: Monthly Family Holiday Programs
Kitah Alef Grade 1	<p>Extends the study of who the people are in the Temple, how and what we celebrate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Explore the meaning of the holidays and the ritual items used in our Jewish world ♦ Children are blessed by the clergy during a Consecration Ceremony/Simchat Torah which includes a live Klezmer band and dancing ♦ Family Program: Wimpel Making. Parents and students create a beautiful wimpel that is displayed on the bimah and then kept as a treasured ritual item to be used for future life cycle events.
<p>Did you know? The Union for Reform Judaism CHAI Curriculum is designed to facilitate lifelong Jewish learning. It focuses classroom learning on 3 strands: <i>Torah</i>, <i>Avodah</i> (love) and <i>G'milut Chasadim</i> (acts of loving kindness). All of our CBI 2nd through 5th graders learn from this curriculum which brings the home and school together.</p>	
Kitah Bet Grade 2	<p>Students begin developing personal connections and learn about the power of the 3 strands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Alef-Bet recognition ♦ Class Mitzvah Project ♦ Family Program: Celebrating Passover!
Kitah Gimel Grade 3	<p>Students refine their own understanding and definition of <i>k'dushah</i> (holiness).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Begin to understand how ritual objects, symbols, prayer, and behaviors can make moments and places special ♦ In grade 3, students may enroll in the twice-weekly Integrated Hebrew Program (IHP) ♦ Family Program: Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah! Picking A Date
Kitah Dalet Grade 4	<p>Students start to see a direct relationship between being a member of a community and our behaviors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The study of the relationship between the People and the Land in the Torah ♦ Significance and structure of communal prayer ♦ Family Program: Discovering Prayer ♦ Students wishing to enroll in IHP for the first time should contact the Education office
Kitah Hay Grade 5	<p>Throughout this year, the theme of Reform Judaism and the power of community will connect the 3 strands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The role of the individual in a community, increased sophistication in prayer and connection to Israel ♦ Learning the wisdom of the prophets ♦ Family Program: Yom HaShoa/Yom Hazikaron Learning and Family Hike ♦ Students wishing to enroll in IHP for the first time should contact the Education office
Middle School Midrasha Grades 6-7	<p>Learning becomes more sophisticated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Deeper understanding of Holocaust studies and exploring Israel and the Middle East ♦ Jewish values and relevancy of Torah and Mitzvot in modern life ♦ Ethics and social justice
High School Midrasha Grades 8-12	<p>Advanced study of what it means to be on a Jewish Journey and the emergence of becoming a Jewish leader in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Topics include dealing with social and religious ethics, open discussions with clergy and teachers on political issues and other items of concern to Jewish teenagers today ♦ Beginning in 9th grade, students may choose to work as <i>Madrichim</i> (classroom aides) in lower grades to gain valuable background and experience that can be applied to future roles in education ♦ Religious Action Center's <i>L'Taken</i> Seminar to Washington D.C. is offered to students 10th grade as well culminating the end of the year with the Confirmation ceremony during the festival of Shavout ♦ 11th and 12th grade students are eligible to participate in a trip to the South where they get a taste of southern Jewish life, learn about the Civil Rights Movement and solidify their lasting relationships as well as becoming eligible for scholarships to travel to Israel on teen NFTY trips ♦ Monthly youth group led programs and activities ♦ A beautiful graduation service created and led by seniors at the end of 12th grade

