



# Opening Doors to Joyful Jewish Learning



CBI



CONGREGATION  
BETH ISRAEL

EDUCATION AT  
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL



## MINI MENSCHES

Mini Mensch is a community of families with children aged 0-5 creating lasting friendships, Jewish connections and memories together.

### Who is a mensch?

- A mensch is an upright citizen who lives out our Jewish values in daily life. A mensch is exactly who you want your child to be!
- This program is free and open to all in our community. You do not have to be a member of CBI to participate.

### Mini Mensch programs include

- Tot Shabbat (all ages): A sweet thirty minute Saturday morning service with CBI clergy and song leaders. Crafts and snacks after each service. We hold these on the first and third Saturdays of each month.
- Classes, such as time management and visioning, for parents and all those raising young children.
- Celebrate Chanukah, Purim, and other holidays with Mini Mensch and the whole CBI community.

Our Mini Mensch programming is constantly growing and changing based on community needs and feedback. If you have an idea for an event, we'd be happy to help make it happen!



## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

As part of their Religious School education

- Students thrive in a shared Jewish environment and become confident in their Judaism
- Experience Judaism through their senses; music, art, and cooking
- Search for answers to life's questions through exploration of Jewish values
- Develop appreciation of our rich history and modern Jewish life

### Elementary School (Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 5)

Sundays, 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM

- *Mishpacha Minyan*, a lively Family Service
- Specialty sessions for music, dance, drama and visual arts
- Focus on Jewish traditions and holidays, prayers, and community

### Integrated Hebrew Program (IHP- Grades 3-5)

Thursdays, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM

- Hebrew enrichment focused on reading fluency, vocabulary, and *t'filot* (prayers).

### Middle School: Midrasha (Grades 6-7)

Sundays, 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM

- Deeper understanding of Jewish history
- Exploration of Israel and Middle Eastern studies
- Application of Jewish values, Torah, and *mitzvot* to modern life
- Curriculum focused on ethics, identity, and social justice
- B'nei Mitzvah students study with Cantor Cahana, peer tutors, and Hebrew teachers with a *T'filla* (learning service) each week

### High School: Midrasha (Grades 8-12)

Sundays, 12:15 PM to 2:15 PM

Students meet with clergy and teachers to explore subjects such as Jewish identity, comparative religions, Jewish history, social justice and cultural arts; applying Judaism to their teenage lives by

- gaining leadership experience as *Madrichim* (classroom aides)
- attending the Religious Action Center's L'Taken Seminar to Washington D.C.
- studying the Civil Rights Movement on a trip through the American south.
- studying applied Jewish ethics with the Senior Rabbi
- leading their Confirmation and Graduation Services



## B'NEI MITZVAH

The CBI B'nei Mitzvah process begins as early as third grade and is designed to welcome students at any age. Wherever you are in the process of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, CBI is here with you!

Regular meetings with our clergy guide you on your way. Our supportive Religious School program prepares students at all stages of Hebrew learning. As their B'nei Mitzvah dates approach, students design and implement community service Mitzvah Projects.



### B'nei Mitzvah Journey

- Receive B'nei Mitzvah Date
- Single or two-day Integrated Hebrew Program
- Attend select Friday night and Saturday morning services throughout the B'nei Mitzvah journey
- *Midrasha* middle school Hebrew
- D'var Torah preparation with CBI clergy and completion of a Mitzvah Project
- Celebration of Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony



## YOUTH GROUPS

### Dor Chadash

Dor Chadash is our junior youth group for students in 6th and 7th grades. Students build friendships and explore Judaism at our monthly events. Dor Chadash does everything from social action projects to laser tag!

The goal of Dor Chadash is to build strong, safe, and fun connections between teens as they celebrate their B'nei Mitzvah and prepare for high school. All of our events center around building relationships and a solid sense of community.

### PARTY

PARTY (Portland Area Reform Temple Youth) is CBI's youth group for 8th-12 graders. Participation gives high school students (and 8th graders!) a chance to make friends with other Jewish teenagers. These connections keep our teens engaged and give them a safe space and foundation to lean on throughout their formative teen years. The youth group sponsors programs ranging from social enrichment, worship, and community service events. Through PARTY, students learn

- To stand up for their beliefs and "pray with their feet" when it comes to Social Justice
- Community and peer leadership
- Joy in being Jewish and being part of a community
- Pride in themselves and their community

PARTY is our local chapter of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) and belongs to the NFTY Northwest Region.



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. 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, 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, RJE  
*Director of Education*



## We'd love to hear from you!

Contact [Chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org](mailto:Chelsea@bethisrael-pdx.org)  
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for B'nei Mitzvah.

