

THE WEITZMAN FAMILY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (7TH GRADE) AND HIGH SCHOOL (8TH-10TH GRADE) PROGRAMS

Welcome!

Our Junior high school and high school program are educational programs that reflect an approach to Jewish tradition and outlook of contemporary Jewish life exemplified by our synagogue and by the Conservative Movement of which we are a part. We emphasize Torah and text study, Israel, religious and ethical education to teenagers. Our commitment to the social development of young people is maintained through activities that include holiday celebrations, class trips, social action activities and group discussions.

Our hope is that our students' years in the program will deepen their Jewish knowledge, enhance their understanding of Judaism, enrich their life with new friends and new Jewish experiences and will help them develop a strong Jewish identity.

We ask that you participate fully in what the school has to offer. We encourage you to ask questions and raise the issues that confront you as you struggle with what it means to be a Jew in today's modern world. Our teachers will provide a resource of answers and responses, which will expand your knowledge and help form your strong Jewish identity and pride.

Our Junior / High school schedule:

Junior High (7th Grade)

9:15 – 9:30 am – Homeroom

9:30 – 10:00 am – Tefillah

10:00 – 11:00 am

1st Semester – Rotation between *M&M* and *Topical Bible*

2nd Semester – Rotation between *Digesting History & Jewish Culture* and *Pirkei Avot*

11:00 – 11:10 am – Snack & Break (7th grade will join the High School Bagel Break 2nd Semester)

11:10 am – 12:10 pm

1st Semester – Rotation between *M&M* and *Topical Bible*

2nd Semester – Rotation between *Digesting History & Jewish Culture* and *Pirkei Avot*

High School (8th – 10th Grade)

9:15 – 10:15 am – Jews in the News (optional course for those who arrive early)

10:15 – 11:00 am

8th Grade- Israel with Janet Goldsmith

9th Grade- Life Cycle Events with Rabbi Meir Tannenbaum

10th Grade – Confirmation with Rabbis Gershon & Glickman

11:00 – 11:15 am – Bagel Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm – Grade level Semester Courses (see below)

Our program:

TIKUN OLAM

Throughout the year all our students will be involved in TIKUN OLAM – repairing of the world. Each grade will be assigned a special activity in the synagogue or the wider community. Look for special announcements.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (7TH GRADE)

TEACHERS: MONA ALLEN & MINDI SUE STERNBLITZ-RUBENSTEIN

TFILAH (YEAR COURSE)

As they prepare for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students will begin their day with a shacharit service, in which they will be asked to take leading roles. Every week different parts of the service will be emphasized

M & M (SEMESTER)

No, it is not about those candies; however we will include them in the program as snacks... It is about *Moach* – in Hebrew meaning brain and *Mazal* – in Hebrew meaning good luck or chance. Students, using and exploring the books “Jewish Book of Why I and II” will prepare for a school wide game show event using the many answers to questions that they believe “Jews must know”.

TOPICAL BIBLE (SEMESTER)

In the *Topical Bible* class students will use biblical texts to guide them as they wrestle with real-life social and ethical problems. Each chapter presents a major contemporary issue and examines it through the lens of the Bible.

DIGESTING HISTORY AND JEWISH CULTURE (SEMESTER)

Yes, this class involves eating....but not without a touch of history. “*Our Jewish way of life – What we believe, what we treasure what we remember- was not shaped all at once. It grew out of a great journey through time and place*” Students will explore that journey and will cook and taste symbolic dishes that represent places and cultures along the way.

PIRKEI AVOT (SEMESTER)

Jewish Wisdom 101 for today's young generation. This course is an introduction to the central source of Jewish wisdom on how to live a civilized life using the timeless ethics of *Pirke Avo – the sayings of our fathers*.

HIGH SCHOOL (8TH - 10TH GRADE)

JEWS IN THE NEWS

TEACHER: JANET GOLDSMITH

A class opened to all our high school students and parents who happened to be in the building early before classes start. This class will offer discussions about and exploring of “Jews/Israel in the news”

8TH GRADE

ISRAEL (YEAR COURSE)

TEACHER: JANET GOLDSMITH

This class will explore the history of Modern Israel and will survey the growth, development and issues facing the modern state of Israel. Students will be encouraged to communicate through special activities with Israelis their age.

IS CHANUKAH ALL ABOUT THE MIRACLE WITH THE OIL? (SEMESTER)

TEACHER: RABBI MEIR TANNENBAUM

This class will explore the holidays like they were never explored before. Students will get the REAL historical and biblical aspects of the holidays. As part of the class students will be given the opportunity to create their own Jewish holiday....

THE TV CHALLENGE (SEMESTER)

What are the images we encounter today -- on TV, in the movies & in print -- that talk about Jews? What do they say about us? This course will take a close look at these images and discuss their representations and implications on our Jewish identities. Students will learn to view television critically, to compare and contrast the values expressed on television to the values of Jewish tradition and to make connections between Torah and the world around them.

9TH GRADE

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS (YEAR COURSE)

TEACHER: RABBI MEIR TANNENBAUM

Students will explore the rituals and observances of major Jewish life cycle events - from birth, bar/bat mitzvah and confirmation to marriage, death and mourning. Studies include participation in a mock wedding, a visit to a mikveh, and a visit to a cemetery.

HOLOCAUST (SEMESTER)

TEACHER: MAX GLAUBEN

Our own Max Glauben will take the students through one of the most horrifying periods in Jewish history. Through his life story and historical facts students will learn, ask questions and witness events that should not be forgotten. This class will also be discussing ways to promote tolerance among people and nations today.

WHY BE DIFFERENT (SEMESTER)

Being Jewish can mean being different from other people. Sometimes it requires upholding values different from those taken for granted in our secular society.

Adolescents in our religious schools are searching for answers to some troubling questions. Our Why Be Different class will help answer them.

10TH GRADE

CONFIRMATION SEMINAR (YEAR COURSE)

TEACHERS: RABBIS GERSHON & GLICKMAN

Students will explore different topics with Rabbi Gershon and Rabbi Glickman.

HOT TOPICS (SEMESTER)

TEACHER: JANET GOLDSMITH

Students will approach sensitive issues they encounter in their teen lives. They are our "Hot topics" and they include abortion, euthanasia, school violence, cloning, and sexuality. They will explore intriguing scenarios highlighting how Jewish responses to these issues have changed over time. Each topic will promote discussions and will offer understanding of Judaism's approach to those issues.

POST ISRAEL – PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION (SEMESTER)

Students will be able to debrief after their trip and prepare their parts for the Confirmation celebration. Through discussions, artistic expressions and writings students will be able to “show of” their pride confirming their Judaism.