

TEMPLE BETH EL MASA

The Prentis Education Program for Grades K-12

2021-2022 HANDBOOK (5782)



Temple Beth El's Educational goal is to create a Reform Jewish learning environment that inspires personal journeys and strengthens our sacred community through engaging and memorable experiences shaped by these Jewish values:

TALMUD TORAH KEDUSHAH K'HILAH TIKKUN OLAM AHAVAT YISRAEL



Dear Masa Families,

Welcome to Masa 5782! We are so glad your family has chosen Temple Beth El to pursue your family's Jewish journey. The clergy, staff, teachers, and I are committed to working with all of you to make Judaism engaging and relevant to your family's life. This handbook has been prepared as a guide for all of our programs. Please read it carefully and save it as a reference throughout the coming year.

Last year was challenging for all of us in so many ways. Our Masa community was divided up – some in our online programs and others meeting in-person in our tent. We are looking forward with great hope to being together again in our building in the fall.

As the coming year progresses, please stay in touch with us. Read the communications we send home, come in and meet the teachers, ask us questions, and share your ideas. Your child's Jewish education is the result of a partnership between the congregation and your family. Every one of us is on a Jewish journey and we are looking forward to traveling through the coming year together.

L'shalom,

Deborah Morosohk, RJE
Director of Education

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RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY CALENDAR

2021-2022

5782

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rosh HaShanah	
• Erev	Monday, September 6, 2021
• Holiday	Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Yom Kippur	
• Kol Nidre	Wednesday, September 15, 2021
• Holiday	Thursday, September 16, 2021
Sukkot	
• Erev	Monday, September 20, 2021
• Holiday	Tues. Sept 21 – Mon. Sept 27, 2021
Simchat Torah	
• Erev	Monday September 27, 2021
• Holiday	Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Hanukkah	
• 1 st Candle	Sunday, November 28, 2021
• Last Day	Monday, December 6, 2021
Tu Bish'vat	Monday, January 17, 2022
Purim	
• Erev	Wednesday, March 16, 2022
• Holiday	Thursday, March 17, 2022
Passover	
• 1 st Seder	Friday, April 15, 2022
• Last Day	Friday, April 22, 2022
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)	Thursday, April 28, 2022
Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day)	Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day)	Thursday, May 5, 2022
Shavuot	
• Erev	Saturday, June 4, 2022
• Holiday	Sunday, June 5, 2022

MASA CALENDAR
Grades K - 6
2021-2022 (5782)
Sundays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

September

- **12** Masa Opening Day
- **19** Masa
- **26** Masa Open House and Sukkot Family Program

October

- **3** Masa
- **10** Masa
- **17** Masa
- **24** Masa
- **31** Masa

November

- **7** Masa
- **14** Masa
- **21** Masa
- **28** **No Masa** (Thanksgiving Break)

December

- **5** Masa
- **12** Masa
- **19** **No Masa** (Winter Break)
- **26** **No Masa** (Winter Break)

January

- **2** **No Masa** (Winter Break)
- **9** Masa
- **16** Masa
- **23** Masa
- **30** Masa

February

- **6** Masa
- **13** Masa
- **20** **No Masa** (Mid-Winter Break)
- **27** Masa

March

- **6** Masa
- **13** Masa
- **20** Masa – Purim Carnival
- **27** **No Masa** (Spring Break)

April

- **3** **No Masa** (Spring Break)
- **10** Masa
- **17** **No Masa**
- **24** Masa

May

- **1** Masa – Last Session

MASA PROGRAMMING

Grades K - 6

2021-2022 (5782)

Sundays 9:30 am – 12:00 noon



GAN KINDERGARTEN

The theme for our Kindergarteners this year is “Celebrations”. Students will celebrate the birthday of the world on Rosh HaShanah, freedom on Hanukkah and Passover, and the beauty of God’s world on Shabbat. How we celebrate as Jews with ritual items and blessings will be highlighted throughout the year. The featured mitzvah for Gan is Kindness to Animals. Students will begin learning Hebrew in our Hebrew Through Movement Program and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly T’filah (prayer).

Family program: Sunday, November 14 9:30 am - 12:00 noon



KITAH ALEPH 1ST GRADE

1st Graders will experience the joy of doing *Mitzvot* (Commandments). They will get to observe the holiday commandments of hearing the shofar, shaking the lulav and Etrog, lighting the Hanukiah, and retelling the Passover story. The featured *mitzvah* is *Bikkur Cholim*, Visiting the Sick. 1st Graders will participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T’filah* (prayer).

Family program: Sunday, January 30 9:30 am - 12:00 noon



KITAH BET 2ND GRADE

2nd Graders will be diving deeply into two Judaic topics. First, they will explore the story of Creation and Shabbat, why and how we take time to rest and refresh each week. Second semester students will explore the story of the Exodus and Passover, creating their own creative class Haggadah. The featured *mitzvah* is *Hachnasat Orchim*, Welcoming Guests. 2nd graders will participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

Family program: Sunday, January 23 9:30 am – 12:00 noon



KITAH GIMEL 3RD GRADE

3rd Graders will be diving deeply into an exploration of God; what does Judaism teach us and what do we individually believe? Students will explore God through Torah stories, prayers and blessings, and our sacred spaces where we encounter God. The featured *mitzvah* is *Kibud Z'kaynim*, Honoring the Elderly. 3rd graders will also participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

Family program: Sunday, October 24 9:30 am – 12:00 noon



KITAH DALET 4TH GRADE

4th Graders will be participating in our Project Based Learning Initiative. In addition to weekly community building, Hebrew Through Movement and *T'filah* (prayer), students will spend one semester developing a project on Mitzvot (commandments) and another semester on Torah. By diving deeply into a project of their choice, we will guide students to achieve a high-quality experience that deepens their understanding of Jewish life. The featured *mitzvah* for Kitah Dalet is *Bal Tashchit*, Not Destroying the Earth.

Project Presentations:	Sundays, Dec 12 and May 1	11:00 – 11:30 am
B'nai Mitzvah Kickoff:	Sunday, April 24	12:00 pm



KITAH HAY 5TH GRADE

5th Graders will be participating in our Project Based Learning Initiative. In addition to weekly community building, Hebrew Through Movement and *T'filah* (prayer), students will spend one semester developing a project on Mitzvot (commandments) and another semester on Torah. By diving deeply into a project of their choice, we will guide students to achieve a high-quality experience that deepens their understanding of Jewish life. The featured *mitzvah* in Kitah Hay is *Ha-achalat R'evim*, Feeding the Hungry.

In addition to Masa, 5th graders will also participate in B'nai Mitzvah Workshop on either Sundays or Wednesdays to develop their Hebrew and prayer reading skills.

Project Presentations:	Sundays, Dec 12 and May 1	11:00 – 11:30 am
Mattan Torah:	Sunday, April 10	11:00 – 11:30 am



KITAH VAV 6TH GRADE

6th Graders will be exploring the Bible by understanding the Torah, Prophets and Writings. They will continue participating in project-based learning by creating lessons on Bible stories and teaching them to younger Masa students. The featured *mitzvah* in Kitah Vav is *Lo Titayn Michshol*, Not Placing a Stumbling Block. 6th Graders will continue learning Hebrew in our Hebrew Through Movement Program and participating in weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

In addition to Masa, 14 months before their ceremony, students will also be assigned a tutor to continue their Hebrew studies and proceed in our B'nai Mitzvah Program.

B'nai Mitzvah
Orientation:

Sunday, April 24

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

B'NAI MITZVAH WORKSHOP CALENDAR

Kitah Hay (Grade 5)

2021-2022 (5782)

In B'nai Mitzvah Workshop students will learn Hebrew reading skills that prepare them to become B'nai Mitzvah. In a supportive community, with individualized attention, students will learn to decode Hebrew letters and vowels, and then read and chant the prayers that Jews throughout the world pray together every Shabbat.

Students attend B'nai Mitzvah Workshop on:
either Sunday mornings **or** Wednesday afternoons.

Sunday B'nai Mitzvah Workshop: will meet Sundays 8:30 – 9:30 am and follows the MASA calendar

Wednesday B'nai Mitzvah Workshop: will meet Wednesdays 4:30 – 5:30 pm

September

- 22
- 29

December

- 1
- 8
- 15
- 22 NO BMW – Winter Break
- 29 NO BMW – Winter Break

March

- 2
- 9
- 16
- 23
- 30 NO BMW – Spring Break

October

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

January

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26

April

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

November

- 3
- 10
- 17
- 24 No BMW- Thanksgiving Break

February

- 2
- 9
- 16
- 23 NO BMW – Mid Winter Break

May

- 4

Masa Teens 7th and 8th Grades

Kitah Zayin and Kitah Chet

Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

We will begin with social time at 10:30 and classes will meet 11:00 - 12:00



KITAH ZAYIN 7TH GRADE

Our 7th Grade students will spend the year exploring the meaning of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah by learning about and doing Mitzvot (commandments). We will learn about a variety of Mitzvot such as Caring for the Earth, Honoring the Elderly, and Feeding the Hungry. A highlight of the program will be field trips when we go out into the community and perform those Mitzvot ourselves.



KITAH CHET 8TH GRADE

Our 8th Grade students will spend the first half of their year learning about the Holocaust through a Jewish lens. Our approach will be to study the historical development of the Holocaust, so students can make the connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives. Following this unit, students will have the opportunity to choose among several shorter elective classes.

OCTOBER

- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

NOVEMBER

- 7, 14, 21
- 28 NO Masa Teens

DECEMBER

- 5, 12
- 19, 26 NO Masa Teens

JANUARY

- 2 NO Masa Teens
- 9, 16, 23, 30

FEBRUARY

- 6, 13, 27
- 20 NO Masa Teens

MARCH

- 6, 13, 20
- 27 NO Masa Teens

APRIL

- 3 NO Masa Teens
- 10
- 17 NO Masa Teens
- 24

Masa Teens 9th - 12th Grades

Sundays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Classes will meet from 11:30 - 12:30 and students will end their day with social time

All our high school students will be engaging with a variety of content areas. 9th graders will spend one semester on Holocaust studies and 10th – 12th graders will be exploring Oral Histories. Second semester all high school students will be exploring *Mussar*. The *Mussar* movement, founded by Rabbi Israel Salanter in the 19th century, is an approach to applying Jewish learning to character development. *Middot* (virtues) to be explored include generosity, trust, gratitude, humility, patience, and more.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to choose among several shorter elective classes.

In the Spring, 10th Grade students will have the opportunity to meet with the Rabbis and Educator to prepare for the Confirmation ceremony on April 22nd.

12th Grade students will also meet with the Rabbis and Educator to prepare for the Graduation ceremony on April 29th.

OCTOBER

- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

NOVEMBER

- 7, 14, 21
- 28 NO Masa Teens

DECEMBER

- 5, 12
- 19, 26 NO Masa Teens

JANUARY

- 2 NO Masa Teens
- 9, 16, 23, 30

FEBRUARY

- 6, 13, 27
- 20 NO Masa Teens

MARCH

- 6, 13, 20
- 27 NO Masa Teens

APRIL

- 3 NO Masa Teens
- 10
- 17 NO Masa Teens
- 24

CELEBRATIONS!

Consecration

We are proud to consecrate all students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade who are beginning Masa for the first time. It is a beautiful ceremony celebrating the beginning of your child's formal Jewish education.

- Sunday, September 26 at 10:00 am

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a significant Jewish life cycle event. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah marks an important step in the spiritual growth of a young Jewish person. It indicates that the student has grown in Jewish knowledge and is ready, through further study, to acquire a more mature understanding of Judaism and to assume responsibilities of Jewish life. At Temple Beth El we prepare students with the following:

- End of 3rd Grade - Assignment of the Date
- End of 4th Grade – B'nai Mitzvah Kick off lunch: Presentation of Prayerbook
- 5th Grade – B'nai Mitzvah Workshop: An additional hour of learning per week
- End of 5th Grade – Mattan Torah: Presentation of Torah Portion
- 14 Months before the Ceremony – Prayer and Torah preparation with a B'nai Mitzvah Tutor
- End of 6th Grade – Family B'nai Mitzvah Orientation
- Regularly scheduled opportunities to learn and prepare with our clergy

Confirmation

Confirmation is a beautiful and inspiring ceremony when young men and women affirm their connection to God and the Jewish community. Our Confirmation class meets in 10th grade and the goals include encouraging students to engage in the search for religious meaning, reflect and assess their essential Jewish beliefs, and strengthen their connection to Judaism and Jewish life.

- Friday, April 22 7:00 pm

Graduation

We are privileged to celebrate when our High School Seniors graduate from our formal educational programs. They address the congregation at a Shabbat evening service, sharing what their Jewish journey has been to this point and looking forward to a lifelong commitment to Jewish living and learning.

- Friday, April 29 7:00 pm

MASA STANDARDS AND POLICIES

Allergies

No nuts or snacks with nut ingredients are permitted. We are a peanut and tree nut sensitive program. While we make every effort to ensure that no nuts are present in the school, we remain a multi-use facility and cannot guarantee that children will not come in contact with peanuts or tree nuts (residue) inside the building.

Allergies to other foods (including but not limited to eggs, dairy products, soy, seeds, fruits, or gluten) will be handled on a case-by-case basis in that child's classroom.

If your child needs an EpiPen or other allergy related medication we need you to:

- Make sure your child brings his/her EpiPen or medication to Masa.
- Supply us with instructions for using the EpiPen or other allergy related medication.
- Complete a "Food Allergy Action Plan" and return it to the Education Center.

Arrival and Dismissal

When students arrive for Masa, they will be greeted by members of the staff. Once students enter the building they may not leave until the end of the session or until they are signed out by a responsible adult.

Students in Kindergarten – 2nd grade should be walked in the building by an adult and picked up in their classroom by an adult. Students in grades 3 and above can be dismissed independently and picked up on the carpool line.

Attendance

Attendance on a consistent basis is expected for all students. Regular attendance is one of the most important components of our children's success.

Behavior

Our program is one in which all individuals, whether students or staff, can expect to be treated fairly and with respect. We expect our students to arrive ready to participate fully in our program each week. If any student's behavior interferes with another student's ability to learn, our role is to guide the students to take responsibility for their actions and to support them in finding solutions that allow the learning to continue. Because we consider parents valuable partners in all aspects of our program, when necessary, student, parent, teacher and Director of Education will come together to seek a successful resolution to any challenging situation. A sense of security at all times is a pre-requisite for education; therefore, physical violence is not tolerated under any circumstances.

Cell Phones

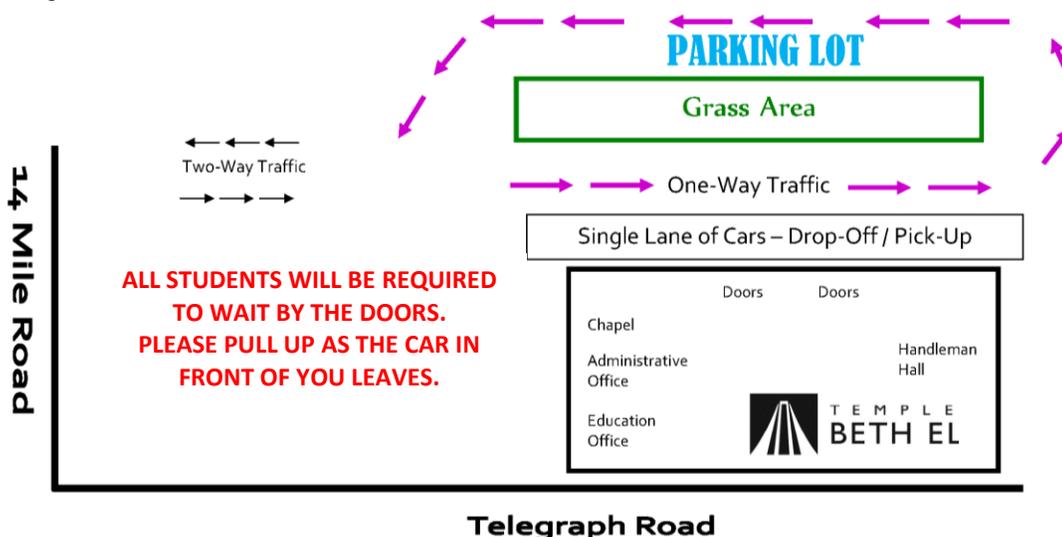
Students will not be allowed to use cell phones during Masa time. If you need to contact your child, please call the Education Center at 248-865-0612 and we'll be happy to get a message to your child.

Drop Off / Pick Up

PICK-UP PROCEDURE

In order to provide a safe and controlled drop-off and pick-up for Masa, we need every parent's cooperation. All students should enter and exit only through the door by the Administrative offices. All other entrances will be kept locked. This procedure will allow for appropriate supervision.

We appreciate all your cooperation in advance. Below is a diagram of the traffic pattern in order to provide a safe environment in the parking lot as well.



Early Dismissal

Students are expected to be here on time for the entire session. When an early dismissal is absolutely necessary, a note should be sent from a parent to let us know that he or she will be leaving early. Students dismissed early are to be signed out and picked up in the Education Center. Under NO circumstances will students be sent out of the building on their own for an early dismissal. After a responsible adult has come to the office and signed a student out, we will be happy to call that student for dismissal.

Emergency and Inclement Weather Closing Procedure

This year Temple Beth El closing information will be listed on Fox2 Detroit, Local 4 WDIV, Channel 7 ABC, News Radio WWJ 950 AM and News/Talk Radio WJR 760 AM. TBE also has a text service - we will be double checking those who are signed up. If not signed up, a text will be sent to have you register. We will also send an email blast with closing information and post on Facebook. If you are in doubt as to whether there is Masa, please call the Education Center 248-865-0612 and closing information will be available.

Guests

When a child wishes to bring a guest, a note must be sent in advance to the Education Center where it will be initialed, and the student presents it to the teacher. A guest is expected to abide by our behavioral standards.

Immunizations

In order to enroll in Masa, children must be current with their immunizations as required by the State of Michigan. Temple Beth El does not accept non-medical waivers and will not allow any child whose family has refused to follow the state recommended vaccination schedule to enroll in our schools. Any medical waiver must be reviewed by our Board's Medical Committee.

Jewish values teach us that *pikuach nefesh* (saving a life), is the most important mitzvah that we can fulfill. Compulsory immunization creates conditions that protect young children, babies, the elderly, pregnant women, and those who cannot be immunized from harmful and life-threatening diseases. We are part of a wonderful community and we must work together to limit the spread of harmful diseases.

Immunizations – Covid 19

All Masa staff will be required to be fully vaccinated for Covid 19 in order to work in our program.

Madrichim

Madrichim are our high school students who are hired to be assistant teachers in our program. A *Madrich* (male) or *Madricha* (female) works with the lead teacher to help individual students, organize class activities, and some of our more experienced *Madrichim* may even teach lessons. They are an important and valued part of our staff.

Parent Participation

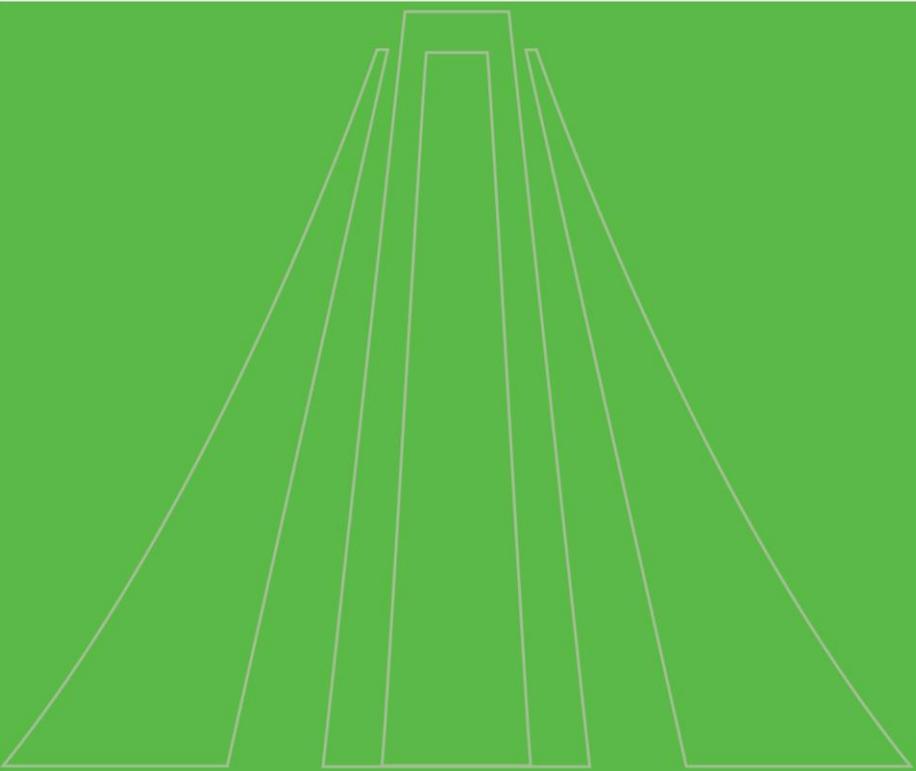
Parents are welcome to visit classes and encouraged to join us for *T'filah* (services) and assemblies. Just call the Education Center in advance to make arrangements for classroom visits. Parents are especially encouraged to be active participants in their children's Jewish education by discussing what their children have learned with them, reading Jewish books together, participating in family education opportunities, attending Shabbat and holiday worship services, and practicing Judaism in the home.

Special Needs Education

- Opening the Doors – This program is a partnership with the Jewish Community Center which allows Temple Beth El to have a special education consultant on site during our Masa hours to consult with our teachers and/or directly teach children with special needs. Our priority is that all children can be included and participate fully in our Jewish educational programs.

Tzedakah

Each week, students are asked to bring money to Masa to be collected in class. Students will have an opportunity during the year to help decide which charitable organization will receive the money. Participation is strongly encouraged in order to put into practice the Jewish value of *Gemilut Chasadim* (Acts of loving kindness).



TEMPLE BETH EL --- MASA

The Prentis Education Program for Grades K-12

2021-2022 HANDBOOK (5782)

TALMUD TORAH KEDUSHAH K'HILAH
TIKKUN OLAM AHAVAT YISRAEL



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