



# TBE MASA HANDBOOK

THE PRENTIS EDUCATION  
PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-12

2023-2024

5784



Temple Beth El's Education 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**  
LEARNING
- KEDUSHAH**  
HOLINESS
- K'HILAH**  
COMMUNITY
- TIKKUN OLAM**  
REPAIRING THE WORLD
- AHAVAT YISRAEL**  
LOVE OF ISRAEL



Dear Masa Families,

Welcome to Masa 5784! Masa means journey, and we are so glad you have chosen to pursue your family's Jewish journey at Temple Beth El. 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.

Our mission statement is about creating an environment that inspires the individual student to grow while strengthening our community as a whole. We aspire to create experiences that will touch each individual student, and then each of those students come together to create our sacred community which makes our Sundays at TBE so special.

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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# JEWISH HOLIDAY CALENDAR

## 2023-2024

### 5784

<u><b>Holiday</b></u>	<u><b>Date</b></u>
Rosh HaShanah	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erev</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Friday, September 15, 2023</p> <p>Saturday, September 16, 2023</p>
Yom Kippur	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kol Nidre</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Sunday, September 24, 2023</p> <p>Monday, September 25, 2023</p>
Sukkot	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erev</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Friday, September 29, 2023</p> <p>Sat. Sept. 30 – Fri. Oct. 6, 2023</p>
Simchat Torah	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erev</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Friday, October 6, 2023</p> <p>Saturday, October 7, 2023</p>
Hanukkah	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Candle</li> <li>• Last Day</li> </ul>	<p>Thursday, December 7, 2023</p> <p>Friday, December 15, 2023</p>
Tu Bish'vat	Thursday, January 25, 2024
Purim	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erev</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Saturday, March 23, 2024</p> <p>Sunday, March 24, 2024</p>
Passover	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Seder</li> <li>• Last Day</li> </ul>	<p>Monday, April 22, 2024</p> <p>Monday, April 29, 2024</p>
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)	Monday, May 6, 2024
Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day)	Monday, May 13, 2024
Yom Ha-atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)	Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Shavuot	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erev</li> <li>• Holiday</li> </ul>	<p>Tuesday, June 11, 2024</p> <p>Wednesday, June 12, 2024</p>

**MASA CALENDAR**  
**Grades K - 6**  
**2023-2024 (5784)**  
**Sundays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**September**

- **10** Masa Opening Day
- **17** No Masa (*Rosh HaShanah*)
- **24** No Masa (*Kol Nidre*)

**October**

- **1** Masa: *Family Sukkot Program 11:30 am*
- **8** Masa
- **15** Masa
- **22** Masa
- **29** Masa

**November**

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

**December**

- **3** Masa
- **10** Masa
- **17** Masa
- **24** No Masa (*Winter Break*)
- **31** No Masa (*Winter Break*)

**January**

- **7** Masa
- **14** No Masa (*Day for Justice*)
- **21** Masa
- **28** Masa

**February**

- **4** Masa
- **11** Masa
- **18** No Masa (*Mid-Winter Break*)
- **25** Masa

**March**

- **3** Masa
- **10** Masa
- **17** Masa – Purim Carnival 12:00 pm
- **24** No Masa (*Spring Break*)
- **31** No Masa (*Spring Break*)

**April**

- **7** Masa
- **14** Masa
- **21** Masa
- **28** Masa

**May**

- **5** Masa – Last Session

# MASA PROGRAMMING

## Grades K - 6

### 2023-2024 (5784)

#### 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: November 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 12:00 noon



### KITAH ALEPH 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Graders will participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

Family program: February 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 12:00 noon



## KITAH BET 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

Family program:                      January 21<sup>st</sup>                                      9:30 am - 12:00 noon



## KITAH GIMEL 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will also participate in our Hebrew Through Movement Program, and other specialists include art, music, library, and weekly *T'filah* (prayer).

Family program:                      October 22<sup>nd</sup>                                      9:30 am – 12:00 noon



## KITAH DALET 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

4<sup>th</sup> 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 the Jewish Life Cycle and another semester on Israel. 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:	Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am
B'nai Mitzvah Kickoff:	Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	12:00 – 1:00 pm



## KITAH HAY 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

5<sup>th</sup> 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 the Jewish Life Cycle 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, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also be assigned to an individual Hebrew tutor to develop their Hebrew and prayer reading skills.

Project Presentations:	Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am
Mattan Torah:	Saturday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am – 1:00 pm



## KITAH VAV 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

6<sup>th</sup> Graders will spend first semester exploring the significance of names in Jewish tradition and seek to answer how they can earn for themselves a good name. Second semester they will dig deep into some Bible stories and create lessons on them that they can teach to younger Masa students. The featured *mitzvah* in Kitah Vav is *Lo Titayn Michshol*, Not Placing a Stumbling Block. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Family Program: Pointing the Way:	Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 – 10:30 am
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# Masa Teens 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

## Kitah Zayin and Kitah Chet

**Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon**

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



### KITAH ZAYIN 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 8<sup>TH</sup> 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

- 15, 22, 29

#### NOVEMBER

- 5, 12, 19
- 26 NO Masa Teens

#### DECEMBER

- 3, 10, 17
- 24, 31 NO Masa Teens

#### JANUARY

- 7
- 14 NO Masa Teens (Day for Justice)
- 21, 28

#### FEBRUARY

- 4, 11
- 18 NO Masa Teens
- 25

#### MARCH

- 3, 10
- 17 - Volunteer at Purim Carnival
- 24, 31 NO Masa Teens

#### APRIL

- 7, 14, 21, 28

# Masa Teens 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grades

**Sundays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

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

**Sundays 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**Classes meet from 11:30 – 12:30 and students end their day with lunch and social time**

All our high school students will be taking part in a unit on Israel this year. The Israel unit will focus on helping our teens explore their relationship to Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel, as diaspora Jews. Lessons will include a timeline of Zionism and the modern state, the values upon which Israel was founded, and the art and culture of Israel.

Following these units, 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 28th.

12th Grade students will also meet with the Rabbis and Educator to prepare for the Graduation ceremony on May 5th.

## OCTOBER

- 15, 22, 29

## NOVEMBER

- 5, 12, 19
- 26 NO Masa Teens

## DECEMBER

- 3, 10, 17
- 24, 31 NO Masa Teens

## JANUARY

- 7
- 14 NO Masa Teens (Day for Justice)
- 21, 28

## FEBRUARY

- 4, 11
- 18 NO Masa Teens
- 25

## MARCH

- 3, 10
- 17 - Volunteer at Purim Carnival
- 24, 31 NO Masa Teens

## APRIL

- 7, 14, 21, 28

# CELEBRATIONS!

## **Consecration**

We are proud to consecrate all students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> 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, October 8 at 11:30 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Assignment of the Date
- End of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – B'nai Mitzvah Kick off lunch
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Hebrew tutoring for reading skills (1/2 hour per week)
- End of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Mattan Torah: Presentation of Torah Portion
- 14 Months before the Ceremony – Prayer and Torah preparation with a B'nai Mitzvah Tutor
- End of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Pointing the Way Family Program
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 19 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 26 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 and Bullying

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.

As we promote the values of holiness and community, no bullying or physical violence will be tolerated. Bullying is defined as any aggressive act, verbal or physical, or electronic, that would make another feel unsafe, fearful, threatened, or unfairly treated.

## Cell Phones

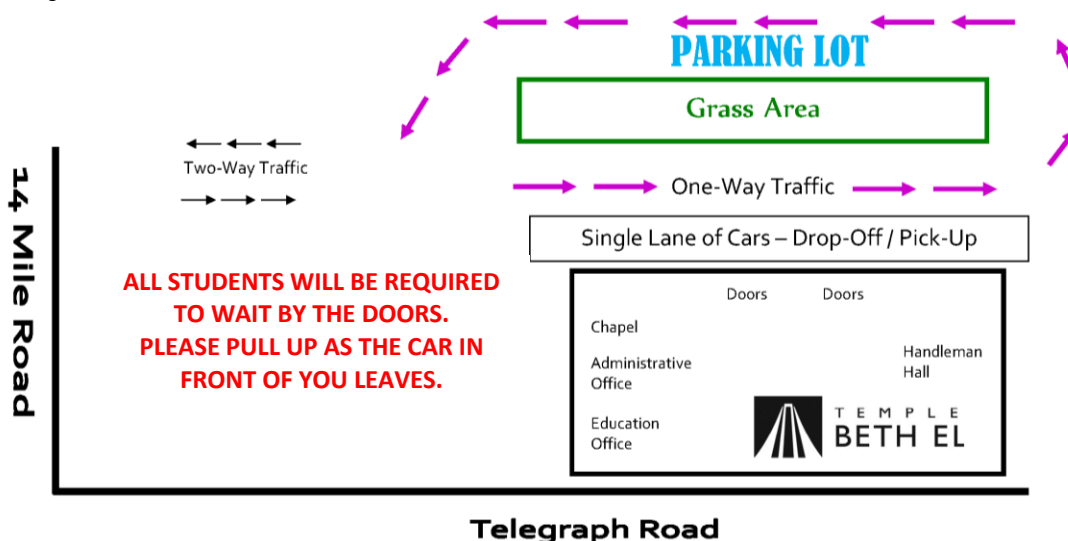
Students will not be allowed to use cell phones during Masa time. If you need to contact your child, please call the Education Center at 248-865-0612 and we'll be happy to get a message to your child.

## 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

If Masa needs to close due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances we will:

- Send an email blast
- Post on Facebook
- Text through our Text Service, Remind. (we will be checking in this fall with those who are signed up. If you are not signed up, your number will be entered and a text will be sent to you for registration confirmation)

If you are in doubt as to whether Masa is open, please call Temple at 248-851-1100.

## **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.

## **Tuition**

Tuition for Masa is billed at registration. There is a \$100 per child deposit required at registration and the balance may be paid over time. In order to register for a new year of Masa, a family must have paid all past Masa tuition fees in full, or made an alternate arrangement with the Director of Education.

## **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).

**TBE** **masa**

GUIDING YOUR JEWISH JOURNEY

7400 Telegraph Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48334  
[www.tbeonline.org](http://www.tbeonline.org)

**DEBORAH MOROSOHK, RJE**  
Director of Education  
[dmorosohk@tbeonline.org](mailto:dmorosohk@tbeonline.org)

**ILENE STONE**  
Education Assistant  
[istone@tbeonline.org](mailto:istone@tbeonline.org)



TEMPLE  
**BETH EL**