



TBE MASA HANDBOOK

The Prentis Education
Program for Grades K-12

2025-2026

5786



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 5786! 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.

I strongly believe that taking part in other areas of the congregation in addition to Masa will enhance your experience here at TBE. We want you to feel deeply connected to our special community. There are youth groups for grades K-12, holiday family programs, adult education, worship, and more. Watch your inbox for upcoming programs and join in the fun.

This past year we went through a Strategic Planning Process with TBE's Education Committee, evaluating our programming and considering ways to make improvements. As a result, we have some new offerings this year. Look for Family Cooking Workshops for grades K-5 and a new Community Service program for grades 8-12 called Teens for Tikkun.

We hope you will be our partner in guiding your child's Jewish journey. Please read the communications we send home, come in and meet the teachers, ask us questions, and share your ideas. 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

2025-2026

5786

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rosh HaShanah <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erev• Holiday	Monday, September 22, 2025 Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Yom Kippur <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kol Nidre• Holiday	Wednesday, October 1, 2025 Thursday, October 2, 2025
Sukkot <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erev• Holiday	Monday, October 6, 2025 Tues. Oct. 7 – Mon. Oct. 13, 2025
Simchat Torah <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erev• Holiday	Mon. Oct. 13, 2025 Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025
Hanukkah <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Candle• Last Day	Sunday, December 14, 2025 Monday, December 22, 2025
Tu Bish'vat	Monday, February 2, 2026
Purim <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday	Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Passover <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Seder• Last Day	Wednesday, April 1, 2026 Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)	Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day)	Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Yom Ha-atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)	Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Shavuot <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday	Friday, May 22, 2026

MASA CALENDAR
Grades K - 6
2025-2026 (5786)
Sundays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

September

- **7** Masa Open House
- **14** Masa
- **21** Masa
- **28** No Masa

October

- **5** Masa
- **12** Masa-Sukkot Program 12:00
- **19** Masa
- **26** Masa

November

- **2** Masa
- **9** Masa
- **16** Masa
- **23** Masa
- **30** No Masa

December

- **7** Masa
- **14** Masa
- **21** No Masa
- **28** No Masa

January

- **4** No Masa
- **11** Masa
- **18** No Masa (Day for Justice)
- **25** Masa

February

- **1** Masa
- **8** Masa
- **15** No Masa
- **22** Masa

March

- **1** Masa - Purim Carnival 12:00 pm
- **8** Masa
- **15** Masa
- **22** Masa
- **29** No Masa

April

- **5** No Masa
- **12** Masa
- **19** Masa
- **26** Masa

May

- **3** Masa – Last Day

MASA PROGRAMMING

Grades K - 6

2025-2026 (5786)

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 Chanukah 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 Cooking Workshop: Sun. February 22nd 11:00 – 12:00



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 Chanukiah, 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 Cooking Workshop: Sun. March 15th 11:00 – 12:00



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 Cooking Workshop: Sun. February 1st 11:00 – 12:00



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 Cooking Workshop: Sun. January 25th 9:30 – 10:30 am



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 the Torah and another semester on American Jewish History. 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.

Family Cooking Workshop: Sun. November 23rd 9:30 – 10:30

B'nai Mitzvah Kickoff Sun. April 12th 12:00 – 1:00 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 the Torah and another semester on American Jewish History. 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 be assigned to an individual Hebrew tutor to develop their Hebrew and prayer reading skills.

Family Cooking Workshop: Sun. November 9th

9:30 – 10:30 am



KITAH VAV 6TH GRADE

Our 6th 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. In addition to learning about them, we will take time for action projects and perform those Mitzvot ourselves.

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 Family Program:
Pointing the Way:

Sun. April 12th

9:30 – 11:00 am

Masa Teens 7th & 8th Grades

Sundays 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

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



KITAH ZAYIN 7TH GRADE

Our 7th Grade students will spend the first half of their year learning about the Holocaust through 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. Second semester they will spend time exploring our relationship with Israel as American Jews.



KITAH CHET 8TH GRADE

Our 8th Grade students have the opportunity to serve as Assistant Madrichim, helping younger children in Masa from 9:30 – 10:30 am either for pay or for community service hours. In their own class they will be exploring *Musar*. *Musar* is a Jewish movement based on the idea that by cultivating inner virtues, we improve ourselves. It's a Jewish approach to character education. Students will explore virtues such as humility, honesty, generosity, among others as they explore what kind of person they want to be as they enter the teen years.

OCTOBER

- 5, 12, 19, 26

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- 7, 14
- 21, 28 - NO Masa Teens

JANUARY

- 4 - NO Masa Teens
- 11
- 18 - NO Masa Teens (Day for Justice)
- 25

FEBRUARY

- 1, 8
- 15 - NO Masa Teens
- 22
- 28 - Purim Carnival Set up 2:00 PM

MARCH

- 1 - Volunteer at Purim Carnival
- 8, 15, 22
- 29 - NO Masa Teens

APRIL

- 5 - NO Masa Teens
- 12
- 19 - LAST Day Masa Teens

Teens for Tikkun

8th - 12th Grades

Teens for Tikkun is a new opportunity for students in grades 8-12 to do Tikkun Olam, repair of the world. It will meet monthly and sessions will be on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Teens can do this program on its own or in addition to Masa Teens.

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 lunch and social time

All our high school students will spend the fall semester learning about American Jewish history. They will get to explore our Rabbi Leo M Franklin Archives for primary documents, and they may even find something about their own families there. The highlight of this unit will be the opportunity to conduct an interview, an oral history, with an elder member of the congregation that will then be included in the archives.

Following this unit, students will have the opportunity to participate in several shorter mini 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 Friday, April 24th.

12th Grade students will also meet with the Rabbis and Educator to prepare for the Graduation ceremony on Friday, April 24th.

In addition, all our high school students have the opportunity to work as Madrichim, assistant teachers with our younger students either for pay or for community service hours.

OCTOBER

- 5, 12, 19, 26
- 12 – Volunteer at Sukkot Program

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

- 7, 14
- 21, 28 - NO Masa Teens

JANUARY

- 4 - NO Masa Teens
- 11
- 18 - NO Masa Teens (Day for Justice)
- 25

FEBRUARY

- 1, 8
- 15 - NO Masa Teens
- 22
- 28 - Purim Carnival Set up 2:00 PM

MARCH

- 1 - Volunteer at Purim Carnival
- 8, 15, 22
- 29 - NO Masa Teens

APRIL

- 5 - NO Masa Teens
- 12
- 19 - LAST Day Masa Teens

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, October 19th 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 3rd Grade - Assignment of the Date
- End of 4th Grade – B'nai Mitzvah Kick off lunch
- 5th Grade – Hebrew tutoring for reading skills (1/2 hour per week)
- 14 Months before the Ceremony – Prayer and Torah preparation with a B'nai Mitzvah Tutor
- End of 6th 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 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 24th at 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 24th at 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, sesame, 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.

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

On Sunday mornings all cars should enter from 14 Mile and park in the West parking lot. All cars should then follow traffic patterns to exit at 14 mile. The carpool lane will be closed off to be a safe crossing area for the students.

Students in Kindergarten – 2nd grade should be walked into 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 in the parking lot.

Early Dismissal

Students are expected to be here on time for the entire session. 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.

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

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.

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 supports 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, due by March 1st of that school year. 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, families are asked to bring money to Masa for our tzedakah collection. Each Masa class has an opportunity during the year to 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).



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