

**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM OF BRANDON**  
**Religious School Policies and Procedures**

**A. School location, class times, and transportation procedures:**

**1. Location:**

Religious School on Sundays is held at Congregation Beth Shalom, 706 Bryan Road, Brandon, Florida from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., followed by a mandatory weekly worship service/assembly from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Hebrew classes for students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades will be held on Wednesday evenings at Congregation Beth Shalom for 1 ½ hours each week. This additional Hebrew instruction and practice will help to strengthen our students' Hebrew proficiency.

**2. Class times and transportation procedures:**

Students from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 2 should be brought into the building by a parent who should remain until the teacher is present. Parents are invited to attend the weekly worship service from 11:30 to 12:00 noon. At noon, the children will be released to return home. Parents of younger children should come into the classroom to pick up their children.

**B. Attendance requirements:**

**1. Class attendance requirements:**

For a child to attend Religious School at Congregation Beth Shalom, the family must be a congregation member in good standing. Parents are asked to reinforce good weekly attendance. Teachers will maintain attendance records for each child, and children are rewarded for good attendance at the end of each school year. **If a child is absent for two consecutive sessions**, the teacher or administrator will **call the parent**. Any time a child must be absent, **it is expected that the parent will contact the teacher to determine what work the child must make up**. Children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are mandated to attend weekly Hebrew classes.

**2. Shabbat worship services' attendance requirements:**

Parents are encouraged to bring children to "Tot Shabbat" services, as well as to regular services on Friday evenings as often as possible in order to reinforce classroom activities and to help build a feeling of community and purpose within our congregation.

Each class will participate in a special Shabbat service once a year, and the parents of that class will be asked to sponsor that Oneg Shabbat by the Home Room "Mom."

**C. Homework requirements:**

Homework will be assigned to children by each classroom teacher as is befitting the age of the children in that class. Homework will include assignments in Judaica, as well as in Hebrew. All homework should be completed **during the week, and before returning to class the following session**. The amount of time each child should be expected to work on Religious School homework or Hebrew class homework will depend upon the grade level and age of the children and may range from ten minutes to no more than thirty minutes per session. Parents are encouraged to review their children's homework. This can be a positive experience for both the child and the parent.

**D. Student supplies:**

Students should bring paper and a pen or pencil to every class session. Any textbooks or other materials sent home during the week are expected to be returned with the child each week. Students and their parents will be held responsible for any textbooks which are lost or damaged.

**E. Discipline:**

Students are expected to maintain the same standards of behavior in our Religious School as in public or other private schools. Students are expected to show respect to both their peers and to their elders. All students and faculty should be able to expect to learn and teach in a safe and emotionally healthy environment. No student has the right to interfere with the learning environment of others. Any inappropriate behaviors will be dealt with immediately, using the following procedures:

1. A verbal warning to the student.
2. Time out in the classroom.
3. Time out with the Educational Director with or without a phone call to parents.
4. Meeting between the parents, teacher, and Educational Director.

The Education Committee and the Educational Director reserve the right to suspend a student from religious school if any of the following occur:

1. Damage to the synagogue property or to any property used by the synagogue.
2. Physical harm to anyone.
3. Drugs, alcohol, or weapons are found or used on school property before, during, or after school hours.

**F Dress code for students:**

**1. Student dress will encourage decency and safe apparel.**

- a. Students will wear shoes or sneakers which can be securely fastened to the feet and which have a reasonable heel height. **No flip-flops or high-heeled slides or beach sandals are allowed.**
- b. Students will not wear outdoor caps or other hats in school.
- c. Boys' shirts shall have sleeves. Muscle shirts are not appropriate.
- d. See-through mesh garments may be worn only if **over** opaque clothing.
- e. Girls in grades 5 through 7 shall not wear skirts or shorts which are "very short" or "mini."
- f. No garments will display sexually suggestive, drug-related or violence-provoking graphics or wording.

**G. Rituals**

**1. Consecration**

All students entering **first grade**, *or who are new to higher grades in the school*, will be consecrated at the Simchat Torah Shabbat service. Each consecrant will be given a special certificate, along with a miniature Torah scroll. This special worship service signifies the official beginning of each child's religious education. Parents of the consecrated children will be asked to host that Oneg Shabbat.

## 2. Naming Service

All students entering **third grade** will participate in a Naming Service at a Shabbat service. The Rabbi will bless each student and give the student a special certificate announcing his or her Hebrew name. This is the first public announcement of the child's Hebrew name to the congregation. Parents of these students will also be asked to host this Oneg Shabbat.

## 3. Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Each student will be required to complete **a minimum of two years of religious school at Congregation Beth Shalom** in order to be eligible to celebrate his or her Bar/Bat Mitzvah. *Exceptions may be made when a family moves to the Brandon area within the two years prior to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah* **and** the student has attended religious school elsewhere during that period. Rabbi Torop will evaluate each student to determine his or her level of Hebrew proficiency. **A student must be enrolled in either religious school or confirmation during the year of his or her Bat/Bar Mitzvah** and must satisfy the prescribed **85% attendance requirement**.

## 4. Confirmation

Confirmation is a two-year classroom program that culminates in a Confirmation ceremony at the time of Shavuot in the Spring. The confirmands conduct the worship service that evening. Parents of the confirmands will be asked to host this Oneg Shabbat.

### **H Special Needs children:**

Any personal or medical information affecting your child's performance should be shared with the Educational Director to be kept in strict confidence, shared only "as needed" with the teacher.

### **I Tzedakah:**

Your child will be asked to contribute weekly to our school's Tzedakah fund. Please discuss the importance of charity with your children and ensure that they come to school with a charitable donation, no matter how small. It is the practice of giving, not the amount, that matters.

### **J School Calendar and updates:**

You will receive a calendar for the 2005-06 school year to keep for future reference. This will indicate dates on which school is held and also school holidays. However, **please read the monthly "Kibbitzer"** which will outline any other **important events and changes** which may occur.

### **K Emergencies:**

You may reach the Temple at **681-6547**, or the Educational Director at **748-8042**.

### **L Religious School Library:**

Our children's library is available every Sunday in order that students may borrow books which they can keep for a two-week period. This is a wonderful enrichment opportunity for your

children whom we encourage to borrow from a multitude of books.