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## *How to Enhance Your Child's Religious School Experience*

1. **Participate in parts of the school day with your child:** sing with them at *Ruach*, or sit with them during Shabbat services
2. **Engage in observances at home as a family:** celebrate Shabbat and holidays
3. **Volunteer:** serve as a class parent, help coordinate a project or activity, bring food for the Oneg, lead a D'var Torah, join the Religious School Committee
4. **Attend scheduled class events with your child:** each class has an annual event, either a Shabbat dinner or Havdalah service
5. **Ask questions:** Engage in conversation with your child. Show you are interested in what they are learning.
6. **Use CBH resources:** Borrow library books, attend the Rabbi's workshops, participate in LifeLong Learning discussion groups. Show your child that learning is never-ending.
7. **Make religious school a priority:** Be on time for classes; help supervise homework. Keep absences to a minimum, and make up missed work.
8. **Encourage social interaction:** Nurture your child's friendships at religious school.

*You send a strong message to your child when you visibly demonstrate your support for his or her Jewish education, regardless of your own background.*

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### **Registration**

In order to ensure optimal class sizes, early registration for school is encouraged.

In keeping with the spirit of Beth Hatikvah, financial matters—including reduced tuition or payment plans in special circumstances—can be discreetly discussed with the congregation's President. No one is turned away because of financial need.

*Throughout the year, new classes and programs are updated and added. Please consult our website for the latest details.*



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קהילת בית התקוה  
CONGREGATION BETH HATIKVAH

## Religious School



A Reconstructionist  
Jewish Education for  
Your Child

*Kindergarten through  
Confirmation*

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## *Holidays, Hebrew, Judaic studies, prayer, social action, Torah study . . .*

. . . all have a role in our engaging curriculum.

At Congregation Beth Hatikvah Religious School, our children are prepared and encouraged to appreciate the joy of living a Jewish life.



Children enrolled in CBH's religious school are able to confidently take their place as participating members of the Jewish community. Their CBH education provides them with a solid background in Hebrew prayers for Shabbat. As a result, they are comfortable in prayer services. In addition, they are well versed in an introduction to Jewish practice and ideas, helping them to identify with Jewish values and ethics.

At CBH, even the youngest child is welcomed as part of the synagogue community. Through study, activities, and events in our school, children learn that the synagogue is both a home and sacred place for them. By offering positive experiences in a Jewish setting, we aim to develop in our students a lifelong connection to Jewish identity and practice, a journey of learning that continues beyond b'nai mitzvah.

### *The Schedule*

**Grades K-6:** All students in grades K – 6 meet weekly on Saturday mornings from 9 – 11:30 am, from September through mid-May. A portion of the weekly school time is dedicated to participation in an age-appropriate Shabbat family service.

The young children's service for Grades K – 2 is 30 minutes long and emphasizes singing and interactive participation. Students in Grades 3 – 6 enjoy a 45 minute service with greater emphasis on prayer. Our congregation enjoys spending Shabbat together and welcomes everyone to the 11:30 community oneg at the conclusion of services and religious school.

Students in Grades 4—6 also meet on Tuesday afternoons from 4:15 – 6pm for Hebrew and Judaic studies. Occasionally, alternative “pods” for Hebrew study are offered; a group of students may meet in an instructor's home on a predetermined, mutually convenient schedule.



**Grade 7:** Seventh grade students meet for formal class every Tuesday afternoon, and one Saturday a month, in addition to attending the

full morning service when there are b'nai mitzvah. As part of the preparation to become a B'nai Mitzvah, they play a significant role in leading — once a month — the Shabbat service for families with children in Grades 3 –6.

In addition, these students also meet one Sunday a month for classroom learning or field trips.

**Grades 8-12:** Our Teen Program extends our students' Jewish education and involvement into their teen years. It incorporates informal learning, service to the synagogue community, and social action/interaction. A Confirmation track offers additional formal learning opportunities.

### *The Staff*

Many of the teachers are current members of the congregation, lending a comfortable feel to the learning process. When needed, the congregation hires additional educators from the community at large. All offer a sincere enthusiasm for teaching and love of Judaism.

### *Class size*

Class sizes are deliberately kept small, usually no more than 12 students, to allow for our communal style of education. Students are encouraged to express their thoughts and ask questions.