

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Religious School Registration 2007- 08

Single session Sunday school has been a great convenience since we moved into our new building two years ago. The schedule has been constant, always from 9:30 to Noon, regardless of special event plans. However, the long-time teachers all say that smaller classes worked better educationally and socially than the larger classes. Teachers have carried the brunt of the change to single session. Our enrollment has increased with most grades having more than 20 students. The largest grades this year (28 students in 4th grade and 38 students in 2nd grade) have been split into two classes so all 10 classroom spaces are filled on Sunday. We have two additional grades that could easily need more than one class next fall. Rather than worry all summer about whether we'll be able to hang on to a single session for one more year, the Religious School Committee recommended and the CBT Board of Trustees approved a return to double Sunday sessions for the 2007-08 school year.

In implementing double Sunday sessions, the Religious School Committee and Religious School Director considered education quality, parent convenience and fairness of the registration process. When we ran double sessions in the past, early sessions were always larger than the later session. However, in order for double sessions to function as they should - to provide the best education for our children - we need classes that are neither too large nor too small. The Religious School Committee and Director have worked towards these three goals: quality, convenience and fairness.

Sunday schedule:

Early Session: 9:00am to 11:15am

Late Session: 10:45am to 1:00pm

- In order to bring the entire Religious School together for Kinnus (general assembly), sessions will overlap by ½ hour.
- With double sessions, we will not need to schedule staggered pick up and drop off. Traffic should be manageable.
- All school holiday programs will run from 10am to Noon.
- Family education will be scheduled for early session.. *Some teachers may schedule family education during both sessions. Check monthly school newsletters and teacher e-mails for times.*

Midweek schedule:

Tuesday 4:00pm to 5:30pm (grades 3 – 7)

Thursday 4:00pm to 5:30pm (grades 3 – 7)

Wednesday 4:00pm to 5:30pm for 3rd grade only*

*Siblings will attend the same midweek day. Wednesday is being added as an additional 3rd grade option as the class is projected to be large.

Thank you for your support and patience during the transition process. We will make every effort to assist you with your scheduling needs and secure a spot that will work for you and your family.

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How registration will work:

- Each family chooses their preferred Sunday session and midweek session (grades 3-7 only).
- Siblings will be together Sunday and midweek.
- Grades K - 7 will be offered early and late sessions. Third grade will have 2 classes early session and 1 class late. Note: kindergarten and first grade are offered as combination classes in both sessions.
- Sunday classes will have a minimum of 10 students. The ideal maximum is 14–16 students.
- Midweek classes will have a minimum of 9 students. The ideal maximum is 14 students.

On the registration form you will be asked which sessions you need and why. If you need to car pool with a specific family, we suggest all families in your carpool submit registration materials right away. This will help us set up classes without as much “phone tag.”

Here is how we will prioritize class assignments:

- ❖ Midweek 3rd grade students with siblings in other grades have priority for Tuesday & Thursday
- ❖ Date of returned registration forms. The earlier papers are returned, the more likely to get your first choice classes.
- ❖ Boy/Girl ratio.

New B’nai Tikvah students:

Students in grades 4-7 who have never studied Hebrew before, will now attend a Hebrew phonics clinic. They will be pulled out of class for self-paced Hebrew lessons Sunday and midweek. Once children master Hebrew phonics, they rejoin their regular class for Hebrew. *The phonic clinics will not take the entire Sunday.* Students will spend most of Sunday in regular classes. Participation in midweek class at grade level will vary by student progress. The class will meet during late session on Sunday (10:45 to 1pm) and on Thursdays (4pm to 5:30pm.)

A subcommittee delegated by the Religious School Committee will review class assignment requests with emphasis on balancing the classes both in numbers and boy/girl ratio. We will mail class assignments by August 1st.

All efforts will be made to arrange a schedule that meets each family’s needs. However, we want to provide the best education for our children. Keeping class sizes small is part of providing that quality.

Thanks so much for your support. Please contact us with any questions or comments.

B’Shalom,

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