

### **Philosophy**

Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS) is dedicated to providing Jewish children a quality Jewish education that will not only prepare them for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but also encourage a joyous attitude towards Judaism that will be the framework of a strong Jewish identity and the foundation of a Jewish life.

### **What should my child bring?**

Everyday (except Saturday) that your child attends religious school, they are required to bring the following items:

- **A kippah** (please review the kippah policy below)
- **A school bag**
- **Sharpened pencils** (2)
- **Tzedakah** (at least one penny every class day, except Shabbat)
- **Required text or papers**

|              |                 |                      |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Gan- Bet     | Sundays         | 10:00 am – Noon      |
| Enrichment   | Tuesdays        | 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm    |
| Gimmel - Vav | Sundays         | 10:00 am – Noon      |
|              | Tuesdays        | 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm    |
|              | Saturdays       | 10:00 am – Noon      |
| Zayin        | Tuesdays        | 4:45 pm – 6:15 pm    |
|              | Saturdays       | 10:00 am – Noon      |
|              | “Etgar” Sundays | Specified afternoons |

### **Attendance**

Temple Israel Religious School has a *75% attendance policy*. Regular attendance in religious school is an absolute necessity in order to attain a complete Jewish education and allow our students to participate fully with their classmates as many long-term themes and projects are part of our Religious School curriculum. Attendance is also critical for the student to remain on track for B’nai Mitzvah.

In addition to Religious School, those students in grades 3-7 are required to attend Shabbat services, also subject to the 75% requirement. Temple Israel students, while receiving their secular education at the Charlotte Jewish Day School, fulfill the requirements for Religious School attendance – however are required to meet the 75% Shabbat service standard beginning in the 6th grade.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent for more than one day, please inform the teacher or email the religious school office at [stuckman@templeisraelinc.org](mailto:stuckman@templeisraelinc.org).

### **Arrival Time & Tardiness**

Classes will begin **promptly** at the times listed above. We have so much wonderful information to share with your children and such a short time to do so! We highly recommend that you drop your child off **5-10 minutes before class begins**, to allow them time to get to their room &/or purchase a snack. Students will be asked to **sign in and get a tardy card at the office** if they are 10 or more minutes late, since classroom attendance will already have been taken.

### **Early dismissal**

We understand that there may be times when your child or family has pressing commitments. As you can imagine, a teacher has a difficult time keeping the students focused when students are being buzzed down every five minutes for early dismissal. Therefore we have implemented the following policy.

***If you must pick your child up early, we request that you pick the up at 11 am on Sundays or 5:15 pm on Tuesdays, which is the transition time between Hebrew and Judaica.*** In order to avoid unnecessary disruptions, we will not call down students for early dismissal at time other than the midpoint time, unless there is an emergency.



### **School Cancellation**

The Principal, in consultation with the Temple, will determine if inclement weather or some other hazardous conditions warrant the closing of school. Religious school closings will be announced on our website [WWW.TIRSNC.COM](http://WWW.TIRSNC.COM); WBTV Channel 3 (Cable 2); or WSOC TV and at their website: [www.wbvtv.com](http://www.wbvtv.com). We will also change the voice mail on the school phone. Please note: **The decision to close or to keep TIRS open does not always follow what CMS decides.**



### **Cell Phones, iPods and Electronic Devices**



Cell phones and iPods are **NOT permitted** to be used in TIRS classrooms. If a child has one of those devices it must be completely powered off and stored in his/her school bag. Any cell phone or electronic device being used in class will result in the phone/device being taken away by the teacher. NOTE: NO cell phone or electronic devices are allowed to be used in the synagogue during Shabbat.



### **Kippah Policy: Our Jewish "Uniform"**

Boys and girls are required to cover their heads at Temple Israel Religious School. A kippah denotes respect for and love of God. We honor God and show our respect when we cover our heads.

Since Temple Israel is a Conservative synagogue—in which both males and females are treated equally—boys, girls, men and women are encouraged to show their respect in the same manner. Therefore, Temple Israel and Rabbi Ezring recommend that all students at TIRS wear a kippah every time they come to religious school.

Due to the prevalence of lice, kippot **cannot** be shared and/or used by different people. For this reason, the religious school office will **not** keep a box of kippot to be re-used. Helpful hint: *Keep a glove compartment full of kippot in your car!*

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

Evaluation is an on-going process throughout the school year. To keep you informed on a regular basis, students will receive progress reports two times during the year. Students will be evaluated on the basis of attendance, homework, class participation, mastery of the material, and behavior. The teachers and the principal will be glad to answer any questions or discuss any concerns about your child's progress.

### **Kashrut**

Our school building is completely kosher. Please do not come to school with any foods that are not hedered or kosher. This includes food from fast food franchises.

### **Homework Policy**

Homework is designed to act as reinforcement of material that is being studied in a class. Frequently, it is necessary for teachers to assign homework and this is routinely true for Hebrew studies. Our objective is to have homework be reasonable, relevant and interesting. In general, your child will *not* receive more than 10 minutes of homework per religious school day. We ask you to remind your children about their homework responsibilities and to ensure that their assignments are completed. Parents may be asked to initial or sign the homework when it is completed.

### **Carpool**

#### **DROP OFF**

- Enter Shalom Park at the main drive off of Providence Road.
- At the first stop sign, turn RIGHT (towards Temple Beth El and the outdoor pool).
- Proceed through the top level of the JCC parking lot and past the entrance to the library.
- Drop your child off at the front door of the Gorelick Education Building (Building E)

#### **PICKUP**

In order to improve safety and to keep carpool running more efficiently the school will have 2 designated pick-up areas:

- One in the front of the school for Carpool only
- One in the back for Walk-up parents only.

All students designated as CARPOOL students from Gan - Zayin will be brought outside in front of the Gorelick Education and will sit quietly in their designated area. Walk-ups will no longer be allowed at the front of the building, therefore you must commit to being a carpool parent or a walk-up parent.

ALL parents that walk up to the building for pick-up after Religious School will now be asked to park along the curb at the BACK of the building and walk in to the playground, where your student will be waiting with supervision. You *must* commit to being a “walk-up parent” or a “carpool parent,” so that your child will be brought to the correct designated spot.

Families that are designated as Walk-up will:

1. Enter Shalom Park at the main drive (off Providence) and turn left at “T.”
2. Take the first right after our school building (near the playground). Continue towards the Rotunda entrance of the LJCC’s Main Street.
3. Park along the curb –with the first car moving all the way up to the Main street entrance. Do not park in the Maintenance Drive.
4. Get out of your car and go in to the playground to find your child.
5. Exit by driving forward and leaving towards Jefferson or turning left at the stop sign.

Security has asked that we DO NOT park your car in the regular JCC parking spots.

### **Security: Keeping our Children Safe**

The building has a high quality security system. All the doors will be secured and locked throughout the week. The front door will be unlocked at drop off and pick up times. At all other times students and/or parents may buzz the office to gain access to the building.

### **How do I support my child’s Jewish education?**

Coming prepared to Religious school makes a tremendous difference. Please make sure that your child comes with all the items listed on page one.

1. We have found a direct correlation between a student's attendance and their achievement, interest and attitude. Please help your child to maintain regular attendance and to arrive at school on time for classes.
2. We can best help your child if we are aware of his/her needs. If your child is experiencing difficulties in public school, s/he will most likely experience similar challenges in religious school. Please inform the school of any physical, social or learning challenges that your child may be experiencing.
3. The transition from public school to Hebrew school on weekdays can be tricky. Please help ease the transition by providing a light snack for your child before religious school.
4. Many of our students are involved in various extracurricular activities. Sports, music, scouting, etc. are all important, but *please* place priority on your child's Jewish education.



### **Junior Congregation**

Junior congregation is considered an integral part of your child's religious school experience. Therefore, it is mandatory that all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students attend Junior Congregation on Shabbat. Classes will be held from 10 – 11, at which time students will learn the Torah portion of the week. At 11 am, all students will walk over to Temple Israel for Youth Shabbat services. Students will receive ribbons for consistently using the "3 P's:" ***Prayer, Participation & Positive behavior***. Note: Ribbons can be saved and exchanged for prizes. (Book bags, tzedakah and pencils are not required for Shabbat.)

**Please drop your child off at the Gorelick Education building (Building E) at 10:00 am. Pick up will be at noon at the Temple. (6<sup>th</sup> grade drop off is at the Temple.)**

A brief children's Kiddush will follow Junior Congregation.

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Shabbat Zayin/Etgar students are required to attend services in the main sanctuary every Saturday that religious school is in session. Students should arrive at 10 a.m. and sit with their class in the sanctuary. Attendance will be taken.

The Torah service begins at approximately 10 a.m. and it is important for your child to become familiar with this part of the service. Therefore, timely arrival for Shabbat morning services is essential. If the student arrives 20 minutes late—they will receive only ½ attendance credit for that day. (There is a 75% attendance requirement for Shabbat services.)

### **Shabbat Attendance "Flex Plan"**

While there is a 75% Shabbat attendance requirement for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, TIRS now has a Shabbat flex plan. The school will give your child full attendance credit for attending Friday night or Saturday morning services at TI adult service (or at another congregation) OR attendance at 3 minyanim. **A note or an email from the parent must be given to Stephanie Tuckman to receive credit.**

### **Shabbat Attire**

When attending Shabbat services (& Junior Congregation), all students should dress appropriately in order to show respect for the sanctity of Shabbat. Appropriate dress means neat and clean shirts,

blouses, skirts and/or slacks. No jeans or shorts please. It is essential that all clothing is modest. No mini-skirts.

### **Education Committee**

Our education committee oversees all activities of the school, creating policy, evaluating curriculum, reviewing procedures, spearheading innovations, and supporting all school related activities.

### **P.T.O**

Please join the PTO! Dues are \$10 per family. The funds raised will help support extra activities for all grade levels, holiday celebrations, creative materials for students and much more!! Laurie Sheinhaus is the chairperson and may be reached with questions or suggestions at 704-752-3505 or laushein@yahoo.com.

### **Behavior Policy**

At Temple Israel, we seek to create a warm, secure, and joyful learning environment for our students. This is essential in helping our students develop a sense of love for and identification with Judaism as well as the Temple Israel congregation. In order to maintain a positive atmosphere in our Religious School, there must be mutual respect and understanding among teachers, students, and families –each is a partner in creating this environment. Our teachers and students will treat each other with dignity and respect. Expectations for classroom behavior will be clearly defined.

It is important for teachers, students, and parents to understand that there are consequences for disruptive and disrespectful behavior. Those consequences include an opportunity for doing **t'shuvah** (correcting one's behavior). Jewish tradition describes a process of four steps to be performed by the student – who may be assisted by parents and the teacher. It should be understood that the doing of these four steps is not simple. The student will:

1. Recognize how the behavior was inappropriate.
2. Admit verbally that the behavior was inappropriate.
3. Make amends for the behavior to whoever was hurt as a result of it.
4. Resolve firmly not to repeat the behavior.

In the event that disruptive or disrespectful behaviors occur, they will be handled in the classroom whenever possible. Parents will be notified if student's behavior becomes inappropriate. Should it become necessary for a student to be removed from the classroom, the following procedures will be used to maintain a positive learning environment:

1. If a student is referred to the office for inappropriate behavior, the principal will discuss the issue and the consequences of the disruptive behavior. The student will be asked to write (or draw, if appropriate) the reasons they were sent to the office and what they intend to do about it. This paper will be sent home to be signed by the parent and will be returned the next school day.
2. If a student is referred to the office a second time, a Parent- teacher- principal conference will be set up.
3. Should the student be sent to the office a third time, the parent will be advised to pick up the student immediately. He or she may not be readmitted to the classroom until a conference has been held with the parent, teacher, principal and the Rabbi.
4. Continued behavior problems will result in a meeting with the parent, the principal, the Rabbi and a representative of the Education Committee and may lead to a student being suspended or expelled from Temple Israel Religious School.

### Community Service

After being sent to the office three times, suspension may be recommended. In lieu of suspension, the Principal may choose to require the student to perform Community Service. Two hours of community service, not during class time, may be required for each time the student is sent to the office.

### **Tikvah Charlotte Program: Jewish Education for Children with Special Learning Styles**

Jewish education should be available to all Jewish children. We are proud to be a sponsor of the Tikvah Charlotte – a special needs religious school class--which is a joint program of Temple Israel, Temple Beth-El and the Consolidated Hebrew High School. Classes – featuring a 2:1 ratio – will be held Sunday mornings in the TIRS Building. Please contact Karen Majercsik at [tikvahcharlotte@shalomcharlotte.org](mailto:tikvahcharlotte@shalomcharlotte.org) for further details.

### **TI - Youth Lounge**

Temple Israel has a Youth Lounge on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of our education building! The Youth Lounge will be open from 3:30 – 4:30 pm on *Tuesdays* and a teacher will be there to supervise the children. There is a quiet area to do homework. And there is an area for games and to watch TV. All TIRS students 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome.

### **Team Madrichim**

Our eighth through twelfth grade students are part of our Madrichim program. They help the classroom teachers in a variety of ways, serve as role models, and will have ample opportunities to interact with the students. We are very proud of our Team Madrichim.

### **School Cart**

PTO has set up a wonderful fundraiser --a cart with things for students to buy!! Students are able to purchase healthy snacks (25¢ - \$1) from the cart. **Note: Cart closes at 4:25 pm.**