



TEMPLE
SINAI
RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL

Parent Handbook 2009-2010



TORAH WORSHIP KINDNESS

Lilmod ul'lamed: To Teach and To Learn

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TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

208 Summit Avenue • Summit, New Jersey 07901 • (908) 273-3617 • Fax (908) 273-3653

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Dear Parents,

The 2009-2010 Temple Sinai Religious School faculty, staff and I will engage your child actively in carefully selected, dynamically delivered curricula and shared Jewish experience in our caring learning community. Our faculty members are seasoned Jewish educators and bring a multitude of strengths to our students and programs.

You are a key player in your child's positive Jewish identity development. With your participation in family programs, holiday programs, worship services, community events and volunteerism, you are a role model for your child's enthusiasm for Jewish "learning and doing" at Temple Sinai.

Our teachers and I know you will do everything within your power to have your child in class each session. We want to know your child's special strengths and needs as early in the year as possible. Good attendance, communication between the home and school and family participation are the keys to unlocking the most rewarding religious school experience possible. We know we can count on our parents and hope you will count on us, as well.

This Parent Handbook is designed for use throughout the school year. It contains the calendar, grade level programs and school requirements, special contact numbers and information about the unique aspects of our program.

I look forward to a warm, collegial relationship with you! Please visit me when you are at the Temple. I will return your calls and email messages promptly. You are always welcome to drop in and stay when your child is in school. I value your confidence, input and participation. Thank you for your partnership in the upcoming year.

L'Shalom -- To Peace,

Patti Kahn

Temple Sinai Religious School

Mission Statement

Our mission, through the learning and experience of Jewish texts, rituals, values, history and civilization is to:

- Inspire our students to feel at home in the synagogue and in our Temple community.
- Provide our students with the skills and knowledge to meaningfully participate in personal and communal Jewish practice, including Hebrew and prayer skills.
- Strengthen our students' pride and connection with our Jewish heritage.
- Foster within our students a love and respect for Torah and lifelong Jewish learning.
- Impart to our students an understanding of the historical and contemporary importance of the State of Israel for the Jewish people.
- Deepen our students' commitment to acts of loving-kindness (*gemilut hasadim*) and to repairing the world (*tikkun olam*).
- Encourage our students to explore their relationship with God.

We believe the synagogue is meant to be a community of lifelong learners, thus family involvement is essential to the success of our program. We encourage parents to participate in their children's Jewish education as well as to actively pursue their own Jewish growth and learning.

Grade Level Meeting Times

Kindergarten	Sunday	8:30-10:30AM
Grade 1	Sunday	8:30-10:30AM
Grades 2 & 3**	Monday	3:45-5:45PM
Grades 4 & 5	Sunday Wednesday	8:30AM-10:30AM and 3:45-5:00 or 5:15-6:30PM
Grades 6 & 7	Sunday Wednesday	11:00AM-1:00PM and 3:45-5:00 or 5:15-6:30PM
High School, Grades 8-12	Sunday	11:00AM-1:00PM

**Note: Some programming for Grade 2 & 3 families will take place on Sundays, 8:30-10:30AM. See calendar.

OFFICIAL 5 YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS IN GRADE 3

All students must enroll in Religious School by Grade 3. Students learn to read Hebrew in Grade 3. Late entrance students (grade 4 or above) must be tutored in the summer prior to September to learn to read Hebrew. These students will continue to learn Hebrew in our Hebrew Learning Center and will only be admitted to a regular class after completing the Hebrew reading course.

Of course we recommend that all our students begin their Jewish education in the early formative years, kindergarten – grade 2. Our early childhood and primary programs are outstanding. However, all students *must* register for religious school in grade 3.

Contacting the School

We look forward to speaking with you about your child's progress and program. We strive to assist you with logistical issues as well. Our Director of Education, Patti Kahn, will be happy to meet with you upon request. Our Administrative Assistant will be pleased to assist you in the Religious School Office and can arrange an appointment for you to meet with Ms. Kahn.

If you have further questions about school policy and would like to discuss the school program or staff with our Temple Sinai education lay leaders, you may contact Donna Leyens, Chair of the Religious School Committee or Warren Kudman, V.P. Education from the Temple Executive Board.

In addition to telephone contact and building meetings, please utilize our email addresses. We communicate regularly with our parents via email.

The Temple Sinai website, www.templestinainj.org, provides links to the school calendar and provides on-line school information. Parents will receive email reminders about grade level and special program events throughout the year. This form of communication eliminates excessive paper flyers that do not always reach a parent and helps to keep our planet green!

<u>Religious School Office:</u>	(908) 273-3617
Patti Kahn, Director of Education patti@templestinainj.org	(908) 273-3617 x15
Administrative Assistant rsoffice@templestinainj.org	(908) 273-3617 x14
Donna Leyens, Chairperson leyensd@yahoo.com	(973) 377-7737
Warren Kudman, V.P. Education kudmans@comcast.net	(908) 464-2727

For Questions regarding the B'nei Mitzvah Program/Tutorials:

Myra Kohn, Temple Office	(908) 273-4921 x10
Saskia Jeselsohn, Clergy Office	(908) 273-4921 x11

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

These procedures have been designed to ensure the safety of all students. Our secondary goal is to facilitate an orderly, swift dismissal. With the cooperation of all parents we will meet these goals.

You will receive via email, a carpool number. **Drivers and students must memorize that number.** We suggest that you instruct your child to write their carpool number in on the designated page in the back of their religious school homework book. If you carpool with other families and have selected a different common number for the pool than the number assigned to your family by the school, be certain you have notified the school office of your final carpool number(s.)

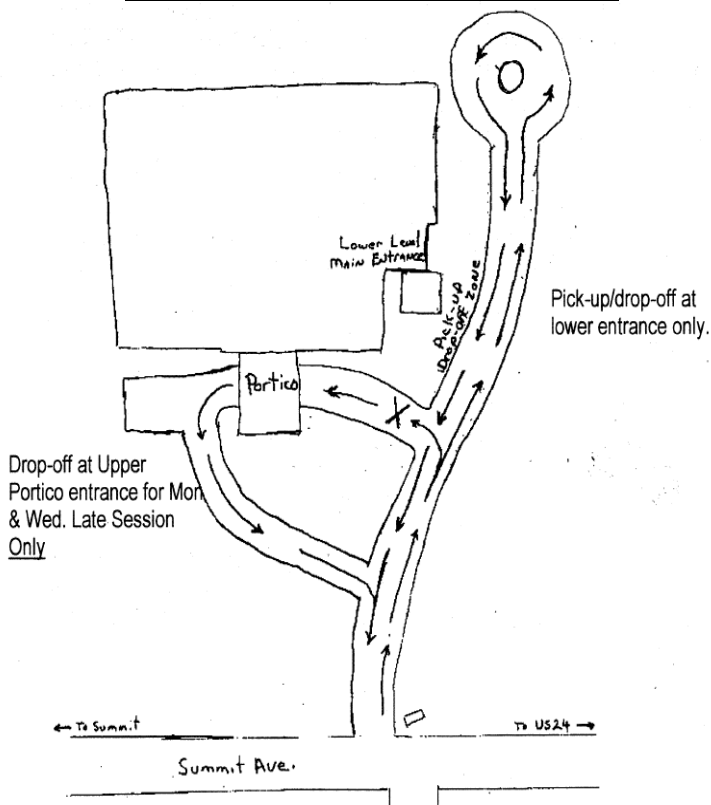
1. Enter the Temple parking lot and head all the way up the driveway to the end, driving around the circular turn-around to pull in front of the Temple's Main Entrance (at the side of the building on the lower level,) along the walkway.
2. Do not allow your child to exit the car until you have pulled into the unloading/loading zone, directly alongside the main entrance walkway, past the circular turn-around. That is the only spot children can exit or enter the car. All children should go directly into the building using the lower main entrance.
3. All arrival and dismissal will take place at the Main Temple Entranceway (at the lower level on the side of building,) EXCEPT WEDNESDAY LATE SESSION (5:15pm) ARRIVALS. Wednesday late session student arrivals should drop off at the second level Temple entrance portico by turning left off the carpool line to enter the front portico area, thus avoiding the Monday/Wednesday early session dismissal lines. (This does NOT apply to Sunday late session arrivals, since Sunday's schedule provides 30 minutes between sessions.) The door at the second level entry, under the portico, will only be open Wednesdays 5:00-5:15PM. At all other times this door will be locked.

4. Special Kindergarten and Grade 1 Arrival and Dismissal Procedure:

We want our youngest students to feel secure and to not feel “lost in the crowd” each Sunday morning. Parents of K and 1 students should park their car and bring their child by hand into the Main Temple Entrance (side of building on the first level) directly to their classroom. At dismissal time, parents must come to the classroom door to pick up their child directly from the classroom teacher.

Thank you very much for following these procedures every school session.

Pick-up/Drop-Off Traffic Flow



DIRECTIONS TO TEMPLE SINAI

208 Summit Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-4921

From Route 24 West Get off at the Summit Avenue exit and proceed on the service road to the traffic light. Make a left onto Summit Avenue.

***Continue for 7/10 of a mile to the Temple. The Temple is on your right hand side; it is an old mansion set far back from the road.

From Route 24 East Get off at the Summit Avenue exit and proceed on the service road to the traffic light. Make a right onto Summit Avenue and continue from the ***above.

From Berkeley Heights & New Providence Take Springfield Avenue East through downtown Summit. Turn left onto Summit Avenue and continue for 4/10 of a mile to the Temple. The Temple is on your left hand side; it is an old mansion set far back from the road.

Excellence in Attendance

Experience has shown that good attendance is the foundation for a positive religious school experience. It is up to you to create an extra curricular activity schedule for your child that places Religious School as the only priority during our program hours.

Temple Sinai Religious School has an attendance policy that restricts absenteeism to 20% (6 absences total) during a school year. Although we insist that missed class work is made up at home, the reality is that much of the learning experience in the religious school classroom setting cannot be made up at home. It is not possible to provide for homework what a child gleans from group work, values and concepts discussions, oral Hebrew reading and communal experiences we use to structure learning in our program. That is why we must insist upon excellence in attendance.

Students who are excessively absent will be required to complete an independent study packet as prescribed by the classroom teacher and the Director of Education.

Absenteeism creates a DISCONNECT between the child and the learning process and between the child and his/her peers. It leaves the child with the impression that Jewish learning and Jewish communal involvement is not important and requires little commitment. A regular commitment to Jewish education and involvement in communal Jewish life at Temple Sinai is the best way for you to support the growth of a positive Jewish identity within your child.

Please be our partner in providing this foundation. If there is an attendance issue in your family, please work toward solutions with Ms. Kahn and with the teachers as early in the school year as possible.

Worship Service Requirement: (Grades 3-6)

Communal worship is the foundation of our Hebrew prayer literacy program. We teach our children the Jewish value, “*Do not separate yourself from the community.*” We find many ways to help our students and families explore their personal relationship with God and to experience Jewish ritual and celebration throughout the cycle of the Jewish year.

Provided at each worship service is a **Service Attendance Sign-In Sheet** on the table near the second floor portico entrance doors. **Please have your child enter their name on this sheet. This enables us to record their attendance at the service.** Service attendance will be tracked and recorded for each student in grades 3-6.

SERVICE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

The Temple Sinai Ritual Committee, at its meeting in September, 2005, voted to approve the following service attendance requirements for Religious School students. Attendance at this number of worship services each year is a requirement for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and is monitored with regularity by Dr. Patrick Jobe, Executive Director, along with the Ritual Committee.

GRADES 3-6

Grade 3	7 services
Grade 4	7 services
Grade 5	7 services
Grade 6	7 services

All services attended by students in **Grades 3-6** must take place at Temple Sinai and may include any of the following services:

- Friday evening Shabbat services (7:30pm)
- Sharing Shabbat services (8:30am Saturday)
- Festival services (including Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Shavuot)
- One Saturday 10:30am Bar/Bat Mitzvah service
- One service on each of Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur morning, and Yom Kippur afternoon (but not including the children’s service at 2:30pm)
- Friday evening summer services

Please Note:

1. Grade 3-6 parents will receive periodic service attendance updates during the school year.
2. Required services are expected to be completed by the close of the school year.

Social Events: Let's Have Fun! Let's Make Friends!

As a school community hosting students from 13 different towns (!) we want our children to get to know one another well, in a fun environment. Religious School parents have joined together, under the auspices of dedicated Religious School Committee members, to facilitate a special social event for each grade level.

In addition to these events, we hope parents will further our students' opportunities to develop meaningful friendships with classmates and peers from different towns. Please invite new friends into your home to share fun times together outside the temple walls.

Please help your child to be as inclusive as possible, so all our students share the benefits of new friendships.

This year our wonderful Grade Parents will be calling upon you to help organize and facilitate your child's social event. Your participation will enable this program to succeed. Many thanks!

Each event will include food (of course!) and special activities (fun!) to be planned by parents. In the fall you will receive reminder notices of the program planned, date and time.

Social Event Schedule

2 & 3	Monday, November 9, 5:15-6:30PM
4 & 5	Sunday, October 25, 10:30-11:30AM
6 & 7	Sunday, November 15, 1:00-2:30PM

Communication is our Cornerstone! **Orientations and Parent – Teacher Night**

Communication between parent and school is a top priority at TSRS. We have planned a number of ways for you to learn and to ask questions about your child's program. The door to the Religious School Office is always open. Come talk with Patti Kahn and office staff. We would love to get to know you and to be of service. We also correspond daily with many parents by email. Don't be shy – Come on by!

Opening Day Orientations, Grades K-7

Parents and students will attend an opening day Religious School Orientation together in the sanctuary:

Grades K & 1	Sunday, September 13, 8:30-9:00AM
Grades 4 & 5	Sunday, September 13, 8:30-10:15AM
Grade 6	Sunday, September 13, 11:00-11:30AM
Grade 7	Sunday, September 13, 11:00-1:00PM
<i>Grade 7 Parents and Students will participate together in a special Curricular Orientation to introduce the grade Philosophical Inquiry with Bible curriculum.</i>	
Grade 2	Monday, September 14, 3:45-4:15PM
Grade 3	Monday, September 14, 3:45-4:45PM

Grade 6 Parent & Student B'mitzvotav Orientation: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 5:15-6:30PM

Parents and students will work together with B'mitzvotav Coordinator Nava Scheckman, to complete the **B'mitzvotav Program Contract**, while learning about the activities and deadlines inherent in this pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah Jewish Values program. Parents and students will also learn about the **Torah Cantillation Curriculum** for 6th graders and the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prayer Curriculum**.

OFFICIAL PARENT-TEACHER SESSIONS

Come meet your child's teacher(s) and learn about curriculum and special grade level programming at our valuable Parent Teacher sessions. Our teachers look forward to speaking with you about curriculum, special projects and programs.

1) KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1: October 25, 10:00AM.

Parents will visit with the teacher in the classroom, while students enjoy music class.

2) GRADES 4-7: Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 PM

Parent Teacher Night includes visits with your child's Sunday Judaic and weekday Hebrew teachers.

3) GRADES 2 & 3: January 4, 5:15PM

Parents will visit with teachers in the classroom, while students enjoy music class.

Closings & Vacations, K-12 (2009-2010)

September 20.....	Rosh Hashanah
September 27.....	Kol Nidre
September 28.....	Yom Kippur
November 8.....	NJEA
November 11.....	Parent-Teacher Night (Grades 4-7)
November 25 & 29.....	Thanksgiving
December 23 - 30.....	Winter Break
January 17 & 18.....	M.L. King Day
January 24.....	Faculty In-Service
January 27.....	Faculty In-Service
February 14 & 15.....	Presidents' Day
March 29 – April 7.....	Spring Break/Passover

School Days - Days we DO have Session

Sunday: Grades K, 1, 4 - 7

September	13
October	4, 11, 18, 25
November	1, 15, 22
December	6, 13, 20
January	3, 10, 31
February	7, 21, 28
March	7, 14, 21, 28
April	11, 18, 25
May	2, 9, 16, 23

Wednesday: Grades 4 - 7

September	16, 23, 30
October	7, 14, 21, 28
November	4, 18
December	2, 9, 16
January	6, 13, 20
February	3, 10, 17, 24
March	3, 10, 17, 24
April	14, 21, 28
May	5, 12

Monday: Grades 2 & 3

September	14, 21
October	5, 12, 19, 26
November	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
December	7, 14, 21
January	4, 11, 25
February	1, 8, 22
March	1, 8, 15, 22
April	12, 19, 26
May	3, 10, 17

High School (8 - 12)

September	13
October	4, 11, 18, 25
November	1, 15, 22
December	6, 13, 20
January	3, 10, 31
February	7, 21, 28
March	7, 14, 21, 28
April	11, 18, 25
May	2, 9, 16, 23

SPECIAL DATES and PROGRAMS (2009-2010)

*This section shows only **special** grade level events.*

****Indicates Parents Attend**

Special Dates: Kindergarten & Grade 1

September	13	First Session, Orientation, Sanctuary 8:30AM (students w/ parents)**
	19	Rosh Hashanah Youth Service, 9:00AM, K & 1
	28	Yom Kippur Youth Service, 9:00AM, K & 1
October	9	Simchat Torah Service w/ Consecration, 7:00 Consecration Rehearsal; 7:30PM Service**
	25	Parent Teacher Visitation, 10AM**, Classroom
November	22	K & 1 "Shema PJ Party" Family Program, 8:30AM**
December	13	Chanukkah Family Festival, 8:30-10:30AM**
February	28	PURIM! Parents collect students from class at 9:45AM for Purim Megillah Service (10AM)** & Carnival (11AM)** Students come to 8:30 class in costume!
March	19	Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service, 7:30PM**
	21	K & 1 Family Passover Program, 8:30AM**
May	2	Grade K & 1 Creation Cantata, 9:15AM** Students should arrive at 8:30 for class.
	23	Final Session

Special Dates: Grades 2 & 3

September	14	First Session, Orientation, Sanctuary 3:45PM (students w/parents)**
	19	Rosh Hashanah Youth Service, 9:00AM, Gr. 2 & 3
	28	Yom Kippur Youth Service, 9:00AM, Gr. 2 & 3
October	2	Grade 3 Leads Sukkot Lulav Service, 7:00PM rehearsal; 7:30 Service**
	9	Simchat Torah Service w/ Consecration, 7:00PM Consecration Rehearsal; 7:30PM Service**
November	9	Grade 2 & 3 Social Event & Pizza Dinner, 5:15PM
	15	Sunday Grade 3 Family Program, 8:30AM**
December	14	Chanukkah Fun Day in Class!
January	4	Parent Teacher Visitation, 5:15PM**, Classroom
February	7	Sunday Grade 2 Family Program, 8:30AM**
	28	PURIM! Parents bring student to 10:00AM Purim Megillah Service; Stay for Carnival, 11:00AM* *
March	1	Come to class in Purim Costume!
March	14	Grade 3 Hebrew Name Service, 9:15AM**
	19	Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service, 7:30PM**
May	17	Final Monday Session

SPECIAL DATES and PROGRAMS (2009-2010) *Continued*

Special Dates: Grades 4-7

September	13	Grade 4 & 5 First Session Orientation, Sanctuary 8:30AM (parents remain to 10:30)**
	13	Grade 6 First Session Orientation, Sanctuary 11:00AM (students w/ parents)**
	13	Grade 7 <u>Special 2-hour Orientation</u> for students w/ parents, 11AM-1:00PM
	16	First Wednesday Session (Grades 4, 5 & 7, with B'mitzvotav Orientation for Gr. 6, below)
	16	Grade 6 Wed. B'mitzvotav Orientation, parents w/ students, 5:15-6:30PM
	19	Rosh Hashanah Youth Service, 9:00AM
	28	Yom Kippur Youth Service, 9:00AM, Begins in Main Sanctuary
	October	9
18		Grade 4 Field Trip, "God's Spirit in Nature" 8:00AM
18		Grade 6 B'mitzvotav Car Wash at Summit First Aid Squad, 1:15-3:00PM (Rain Date 10/25)
November	25	Grade 4 & 5 Social Event, 10:30-11:30AM
	1	Grade 6 Field Trip, Ellis Island, 8:15AM
	11	Parent Teacher Night, 7:00PM: <u>All Grade 4-7 Parents Attend</u>
	13	Grade 5 Shabbat Service, 7:30PM
December	15	Grade 6 & 7 Social Event, 1:00PM
	6	Grade 5 Field Trip, Jewish Museum & Lower East Side, 8:30AM
	6	Grade 6 B'mitzvotav "Clothing Sort" Project, 1:15PM
	11	Grade 6 Chanukkah Shabbat Service, 7:30AM**
January	13	Grade 4 & 5 Chanukkah Family Festival, 8:30AM-10:30AM**
	10	Grade 4 Family Program, 8:30AM**
	10	Grade 6 Parent Meeting "Road to B'nei Mitzvah", 11:00AM**
February	22	Grade 4 Shabbat Service, 7:30PM**
	17	Grade 6 B'mitzvotav "Sorting Groceries" at Oheb Shalom Food Pantry, 7:00-9:00PM
	21	Grade 6 Family Program, 11:00AM**
	28	Grade 4 & 5, PURIM! Parents collect students from class, 9:45AM for Megillah Service, 10AM** And Carnival, 11AM** Students come to 8:30 class in costume
	28	Grade 6 & 7, PURIM! <i>Special Holiday Schedule</i> All students & parents join community for Megillah Service, 10AM and Carnival, 11AM**

March	14	Grade 7 Field Trip, Museum of Jewish Heritage, 9:30AM
	17	Grade 6 B'mitzvotav "Sorting Groceries" at Oheb Shalom Food Pantry, 7:00-9:00PM
	19	Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service, 7:30PM**
	21	Grade 5 Family Program, 8:30AM**
May	12	Final Wednesday Session
	18	Grade 4 Shavuot Service & Cantata, 5:00 Rehearsal & Dinner; 7:00PM Service**
	23	Final Sunday Session

Special Dates: High School

September	1	Madrichim Participants: MANDATORY Meeting/Lunch, 11:30AM-1:30PM
	13	First Session; Select Electives
October	18	11:00AM Regular Class; 12:00-12:30PM Parents & Students for URJ Camp Kutz Program**
	24	Grade 10 Social Action: Children's Specialized Hospital, 6:30PM
November	5, 6	Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 College Caravan
	22	High School Forum, 11:00AM-1:00PM
December	5, 6	Grade 10 Confirmation Trip
January	31	Grade 10 Confirmation Parent Meeting, 11:00AM
	31	Grade 12 Graduation Parent Meeting, 12:00PM
February	27	Come help set up Purim Carnival, 6:00PM
	28	PURIM! 8:45AM High School Sets Up Carnival; 10:00AM Purim Megillah Service; 11:00AM Carnival run by High School
March	19	Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service, 7:30PM**
April	25	MetroWest J-Serve Teens, TBD
May	2	Grade 12 Graduation, 11:00AM - All High School parents invited**
	22	Grade 10 Confirmation, 10:30AM**
	23	Final Session

TZEDAKAH AND SOCIAL ACTION AT TSRS

We integrate the act of giving tzedakah (money collected every class session to create justice in the world) with a social action that supports organizations promoting the Jewish values students learn to embrace in their K-12 religious school experience. “Tikkun Olam,” repair of the world, is a cornerstone of our program.

“AGAHOZO SHALOM” YOUTH VILLAGE

“Kids helping Kids” is our social action theme for this year. What can we do to repair a heart, a hungry tummy, a need for schooling, self respect and love, after something bad happens to a child? We can help in concrete ways to support the educational philosophies used to heal Rwandan orphans at the youth village: “If you see far you will go far” and “Stand up and be counted” (by helping someone else in the world)”. These same philosophies were employed with great success by the Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel, to heal children of the Holocaust and later, Ethiopian children. This year our K-12 students will not only reap great satisfaction from donating their tzedakah money to better the youth village, they will also learn how “seeing far” and “standing up to be counted” works to “restore the rhythm of life” in their lives as well. We join the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and Liquidnet Holdings, partners in the building of the village, in devoting ourselves to this worthy project this school year. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Various social action projects will be completed throughout the year, to benefit those in need in our community. Watch for messages and Temple displays to actively participate in social action opportunities throughout the year.

Please help your child to remember the consciousness-raising value of helping others by bringing a coin or dollar **each and every school session.** Thank you. Your generosity will make a real difference!

Our Curriculum At-a-Glance

Kindergarten & Grade One

Bible Stories; Jewish symbols; God and Creation; Shabbat; Holidays; Hebrew Reading Readiness; Select Hebrew Language Units; Blessings for food, Shabbat & holidays; Select prayers; Jewish music and art.

Grade Two

CHAI Torah Curriculum: *Relevance of Torah and God in my life; text study from the Book of Exodus*; Story time Bible Stories; Shabbat and Holidays; Pre-Primer Hebrew Reading; Select Hebrew Language Units; Blessings for food, Shabbat and Holidays; the Torah Scroll; Select prayers; Jewish music and art.

Grade Three

Bible Stories in Genesis & Exodus, with integration of the level 3 CHAI Torah theme: *Holiness & how our behaviors bring us closer to God.*; Holidays; Beginner Hebrew Reading; Select Hebrew Language Units; Select blessings and prayers; Jewish music and art.

Grade Four

Bible Stories in Genesis & Exodus: How is Torah relevant in my life? Modern Israel, with integration of the level 4 CHAI Curriculum: *The Nation of Israel, The Land of Israel & My Covenant with God*; Hebrew reading for fluency and meaning; Shabbat Prayers I, concepts and skills; Holidays; Jewish music; Field Trip to experience “God’s Spirit in Nature” (Judaism & Ecology).

Grade Five

Biblical Prophets & Kings I, including use of the CHAI Level 5 Torah Curriculum: *The message of the Prophets and Reform Judaism*; Jewish Heroes and Values; Shabbat Prayers II, concepts and skills; Holidays, Jewish music; Trip to Jewish NYC: The Jewish Museum and the Lower East Side.

Grade Six

Bible Stories in Prophets & Kings II; History I: What has enabled the Jews to survive? Ancient history through the 1500’s, with a special unit on our family ancestors and their immigration experience; B’mitzvotav Program; Shabbat Morning Prayer Service; Torah Cantillation; Holidays; Jewish music; Trip to Ellis Island, NYC.

Grade Seven

Our 7th graders will study biblical text utilizing the Philosophical Inquiry Method. Students will read specific texts from Torah that describe physical and emotional “Journeys,” since they are at the age of journeying toward Jewish adulthood. They will ask philosophical questions of the text to make personal meaning of the text for their own lives. This program is the first of its kind in Jewish schools nationwide and offers our students meaningful interaction with the biblical narrative.

Seventh graders continue their study of Jewish history with the Holocaust, Zionism and the birth of the State of Israel. Their field trip is to The Jewish Heritage Museum, NYC.

On Wednesdays, students will enjoy two classes: The Life Cycle of a Jew and Current World Issues through the lens of Judaism; and Modern Hebrew Language, along with cultural issues of modern Israel. Students will continue to practice B’nei Mitzvah prayers through the first half of the school year.

The B’nei Mitzvah Curriculum

The B’nei Mitzvah Program is coordinated through the offices of the Rabbi and Cantor. Approximately six months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, students are trained in leadership of Shabbat prayers; Torah and Haftarah reading and cantillation; analysis and study of the Torah portion; personal mitzvah practice and the mitzvah project; and preparation of the bar/bat mitzvah speech.

TSHS: Temple Sinai High School The Gem in our Educational System

Temple Sinai High School is an outstanding program for students in grades 8-12, with formal and informal educational/experiential components. The high school includes the Grade 10 Confirmation, along the way to Grade 12 Graduation. We are so proud of our unique high school program and encourage every student to enter grade 8 and to continue through grade 12. This program is a “gem” in our educational system.

Our students enjoy a core curriculum at each grade level, as well as two semesters of elective courses. In addition, students participate in the Temple Sinai High School Community Service Program. They enjoy a weekly “Snack & Social” period, a time to hang out and enjoy refreshments together between courses.

Merging Formal and Non-Formal Jewish Education, Trips:

Students enjoy Rabbi Gershon’s College Caravan trip and the grade 10 Confirmation trip to NYC. Grade 10 Confirmation students participate in two Community Service experiences with Habitat for Humanity and the Children’s Specialized Hospital. Social Action trips are being planned for grade 11 and 12 students as well.

“TNT” The Temple Sinai High School Youth Group

All students in the High School are automatically members of our Youth Group. The Youth Group, under the direction of Claudia Minde, facilitates Community Service opportunities for the entire high school community. There are monthly “Tikkun Olam” (repair of the world) activities and special social events. We train Jewish leaders!

High School Core Curriculum:

Grade Eight Contemporary Teen Issues Through the Lens of Torah
Judy Rosen, Instructor

Grade Nine Highlights of American Jewish History and Contemporary issues of the American Jewish Community; Worldwide Current Events through a Jewish lens.
Jack Lorber, Instructor

Grade Ten Confirmation Topics: Jewish Spirituality and the application of Jewish ethics to contemporary issues.
Rabbi Gershon, Instructor

Grade Eleven Jewish and College Bound: Comparative Judaism; Personal response to contemporary world issues; Application of Jewish Ethics to personal behavior and goals; the Contemporary Meaning of Jewish Texts.
Rabbi Yaakov Haller, Instructor

Grade Twelve “What Do I Believe?,” a comparative religion unit for contemporary teens; Relevance of the Great Jewish Philosophers; The Jewish Life Cycle; Leadership of the Purim Carnival and Social Action participation.
Karen Rosen, Instructor

Sample High School Elective Courses:

- Women in the Bible
- Israel through Contemporary Lyrics
- Great Jewish Historical Moments
- Anti-Semitism
- Jewish Music, Dance, Crafts
- Jewish Ethical Dilemmas for Teens
- Message of the Prophets
- What is Revelation?
- Kabbalah, Meditation & Yoga
- Personal Body Ethics

College Transcript Program

We are pleased to provide a transcript of successfully completed courses, for our students to submit along with college applications. We are proud of the coursework our students enjoy.

Programs, Policies & Procedures

Attendance: Continuity and participation is key in our time-limited, experience-packed program. Excessive absenteeism will definitely limit your child's level of comfort, learning and sense of satisfaction in religious school. Attendance is recorded daily for every student (present/absent/tardy/early dismissal.) *Make every effort to have your child in class on time and to stay to the completion of the session.* Call the school to contact the teacher when your child is unable to attend a session. The school will communicate home (via email and website) with your child's homework assignment. Please help your child to complete missed assignments.

Assessment Report Cards: Your child's academic performance, effort and achievement will be valued and assessed by the teacher in January and May. We encourage and assess your child's level of involvement with the learning process, including commitment to peers by cooperating on classroom and community projects. We promote the student's ability to empathize with others and to participate with others in kindness and peace. Contact your child's teachers with any questions concerning your child's assessment report.

Books: We recommend you take the time to look through your child's books and discuss what is of mutual interest to you. Enhance the home Judaic library with copies of traditional and contemporary Jewish texts. Let your child help you to select new texts for the Jewish Home Library. New textbooks should be covered and labeled with your child's name. Contact the school office if your child loses a book. We will order a new book at your request, with payment.

Book Bags: Temple Sinai Sisterhood has designed and produced an attractive, useful book bag, appropriate for every age group. Please come to the office to purchase a Temple Sinai Religious School book bag as soon as possible. What a perfect way to keep all religious school books, supplies and notices conveniently in one place! Book bags are sold for \$10, and benefit our school program. For more information or to place an order, contact the religious school office via email: rsoffice@templesinainj.org.

Building Community Connections: Play dates and get-togethers between classmates and families are strongly encouraged, not only for our youngest students, but for upper elementary and middle school as well. Please use the grade level student lists that have been provided in your August packet for this invitation purpose. Why not invite the families of your child's classmates to a Shabbat or holiday gathering?

Calendar: Temple Sinai's Religious School calendar follows the calendar of the Summit Public School System. We align our school vacations with their vacation calendar. We understand there will be conflicting vacation schedules from students of other school districts that cannot be avoided. However, we hope families will make every effort to attend classes and special programs during a non-Summit vacation when the family is not away. The school will make every effort to not schedule a special program during the various district's vacations.

Car Pooling: We encourage parents to form car pools to reduce the automobile traffic at our school. The class list distributed in August may be useful for arranging car pools. Each family (grade 2-7) receives a car pool number to be memorized by student and parent. The number system enables an orderly and swift dismissal system. If you need assistance with car pools, please call the office.

Cell Phones, Game Boys & MP3 Players: If your child brings a cell phone, Game Boy or MP3 player to religious school, these must be turned off and stored in a book bag during school hours. We prefer that our students leave these items at home or in their carpool car, as they are distracting to the student and to others. Students are always welcome to call a parent from the school office. If a student does not cooperate and uses these items during class, the item will be confiscated to the school office.

Closings: When there is inclement weather, please check the Temple Sinai website, www.templestinainj.org, your email or call the Temple Sinai main phone line, 908-273-4921, for notification of school closings.

Communicating with teachers, the director and administrative assistant: You can help us to help your child by letting us know what is on your mind **immediately**, without delay. Please send a note to your child's teacher and call the office (908-273-3617) to ask us to contact the teacher so that the teacher can call you. Parent-teacher conferences are available upon request. Conferences with Patti Kahn can be scheduled directly with Patti. Patti will also correspond with parents and students via email: patti@templesinainj.org; Our door is open, we care about your concerns and we want to get to know you!

Early Dismissal Procedure: We discourage early dismissal. However, when it is absolutely necessary parents must park the car and come into the school building, ***directly to the office (never to the classroom)*** for early sign out. Our staff will bring the child from the classroom to the office for you. Teachers are not allowed to release a child to a parent or substitute adult or sibling at the classroom door. No exceptions will be made. In addition, we ask that you pick up your child no later than fifteen minutes prior to regular dismissal so as not to disrupt scheduled dismissal procedure.

Emergency Contacts: In case of a medical emergency during religious school hours, parents will be notified immediately and children will be given whatever medical attention is necessary. If a parent cannot be located the school will use the signed Medical Emergency Form to treat a child. Please make certain your contact names and numbers on file in our office are current.

Food Allergies: We do not serve peanuts in our school. If your child has a food allergy, we want to partner safety with you. Please contact the religious school office so alternative food provisions can be made for snacks, holiday and special program menus.

Hebrew Tutorials: We have a Hebrew Learning Center for Hebrew remediation during school sessions. If you believe your child needs additional tutoring, *please contact Patti Kahn*. It is Temple Sinai policy that the Director of Education discuss tutoring with parents and suggest tutors for student needs. Temple Sinai has a list of recommended tutors. All tutoring is funneled through the office of the Religious School.

Homework: Homework is an integral part of our learning year. We provide a **Homework Book** for each student to record Judaic and Hebrew homework. All students in grades 3-6 will receive Hebrew homework each week. Oral (out loud) recitation of Hebrew syllables, words and prayers is the only method that will assist your child's level of fluency in Hebrew reading. Language acquisition cannot be accomplished without oral recitation and basic vocabulary development. In addition, your child will be required to complete written exercises in the book, and to demonstrate understanding of prayer concepts. You should be seeing/hearing your grade 4-6 child complete Hebrew homework weekly. Our Judaic program is enriched with project work. Periodically students will have special Judaic projects and/or assignments to complete at home.

Programs for Each Grade: Parents are warmly invited to accompany their children to community celebrations, experiential workshops and special student presentations throughout the year. Please refer to the Special Programs side of the calendar pages to note the dates of your child's grade level Program: Opening Day Orientation; Parent-Teacher Night, Shabbat Dinners, Special Social Events, Family Programs, Teacher Appreciation Shabbat; Consecration; B'Mitzvotav Orientation; B'nei Mitzvah Meeting; Confirmation; Graduation and special Temple Sinai programs.

Registration: Registration packets will be issued in the spring for the following school year. Registration is accompanied by a registration fee and tuition. A late fee is required in the event of late K-7 registration. All tuition and fees must be paid in full prior to the start of the school year. All Temple dues must be paid in full prior to the start of school for a child to be admitted to class. We appreciate your cooperation. Should you have questions or require assistance, please call the Temple bookkeeper, Cindy Broderick, 908-273-4921 X17, who is happy to work with you.

Religious School Committee: Religious school committee parents meet monthly to discuss and to implement school policies and procedures. They work on the long-range school mission and vision and assist the Director of Education. We appreciate their great efforts on behalf of the congregation's students. You are invited to

contact the religious school chairperson and/or the V.P. of Education from the Temple Executive Board.

Chairperson: Donna Leyens
(973) 377-7737 / leyensd@yahoo.com

V.P. of Education: Warren Kudman
(908) 464-2727 / kudmans@comcast.net

Safety and Security: Please follow all procedures for a safe, calm and considerate car line up at arrival and dismissal; for early dismissal from the office only and for notifying the office if an individual, other than the parents, will be picking up your child. The school will provide periodic fire drills for students. Be certain your child does not bring to school any sharp objects or potentially harmful implements. Always notify the school if your child is having social difficulties in our classrooms or programs. We will respond. If there should ever be a security situation where school administration should deem a school session not safe, parents will be notified and children will be removed from the school premises. For general building safety and security, it is Temple policy that everyone enters our Temple Home through a doorway monitored by a Temple or School representative. Please emphasize to your children that neither you nor they should open an unmonitored door for anyone. Nor should you or your children ask anyone to open an unmonitored door for them. Thank you for your help in observing this basic (and prudent) security policy.

Social Action: Along with the mitzvah of bringing *tzedakah* money to school (see below), our students and families will have an opportunity to take action by participating in our special charity drives. In addition to our planned social action projects, we may request special attention and allocations for special needs that may arise during the year (i.e. Darfur; Assisting Israel). We appreciate your family's participation.

Tzedakah Program: *Tzedakah* means "justice." Students are encouraged to contribute money every time they come to Sunday, Monday and Wednesday class sessions, to help to create justice for

all people. Please arrange for ways in which your child can earn money at home, to develop the value of responsibility for one another--each person can make a difference in the world.

Visitors: We are delighted when children want to bring a guest to share in a class session. We ask that the parent notifies the school of the visit ahead of time. Bring the guest to the school office to sign them in, so we can track who is here and where they are.

Temple Sinai Religious School

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Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-3617
www.templestinainj.org

Director of Education

Patti Kahn
patti@templestinainj.org

Vice-President of Education

Warren Kudman
kudmans@comcast.net

Chair, Religious School Committee

Donna Leyens
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Administrative Assistant

rsoffice@templestinainj.org