

# Temple Sinai Religious School

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## Parent Handbook 2011-2012

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אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ:  
[פִּרְשִׁית בְּרֵאשִׁית] אֲבִחֲשִׁית בְּרֵא  
פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרֻזָּפֶת  
וְהָאָרֶץ הֵיטָה אֲדָמָה וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל  
ב  
הִיא אֹר וַיְהִי-אֹר: ה וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים  
עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם: ג וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים י  
ר וַיִּבֶן הַחֹשֶׁךְ: ה וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים  
כִּי-טוֹב וַיִּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֵר



## TORAH WORSHIP KINDNESS

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ללמוד וללמד

*Lilmod ul'lamed: To Teach and To Learn*

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TEMPLE  
SINAI  
RELIGIOUS  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

The 2011-2012 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, lifelong learning courses, 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 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 <b>and</b> 3:45-5:00 or 5:15-6:30PM
Grades 6 & 7	Sunday Wednesday	11:00AM-1:00PM <b>and</b> 3:45-5:00 or 5:15-6:30PM
High School, Grades 8-12	Sunday	11:00AM-1:00PM

\*\*Note: Family programs for Grade 2 & 3 take place on Sunday mornings. Check the Sunday dates listed on the special programs calendar.

### **OFFICIAL 5 YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS IN GRADE 3**

We have an outstanding program for our Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students. In fact, an early childhood and primary school experiential Jewish education is MOST effective for developing a strong and positive connection to Judaism and to the Temple community. We certainly recommend enrollment of your child in our K-2 programs. Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah track 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.

## 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, Heidi Marks, 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 Joanne Rosenberg, Chair of the Religious School Committee or Ken Gelman, 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](http://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!

**Religious School Office:** (908) 273-4921 X14

Patti Kahn, Director of Education (908) 273-4921 x15  
[patti@templestinainj.org](mailto:patti@templestinainj.org)

Heidi Marks, Administrative Assistant (908) 273-4921 X14  
[heidi@templestinainj.org](mailto:heidi@templestinainj.org)

Ken Gelman, V.P. Education (908) 273-8557  
[VP-Education@templestinainj.org](mailto:VP-Education@templestinainj.org)

Joanne Rosenberg, Chairperson (973) 635-2685  
[Chair-RSCommittee@templestinainj.org](mailto:Chair-RSCommittee@templestinainj.org)

### **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 please memorize your number.** We suggest that you instruct your child to write their carpool number 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.

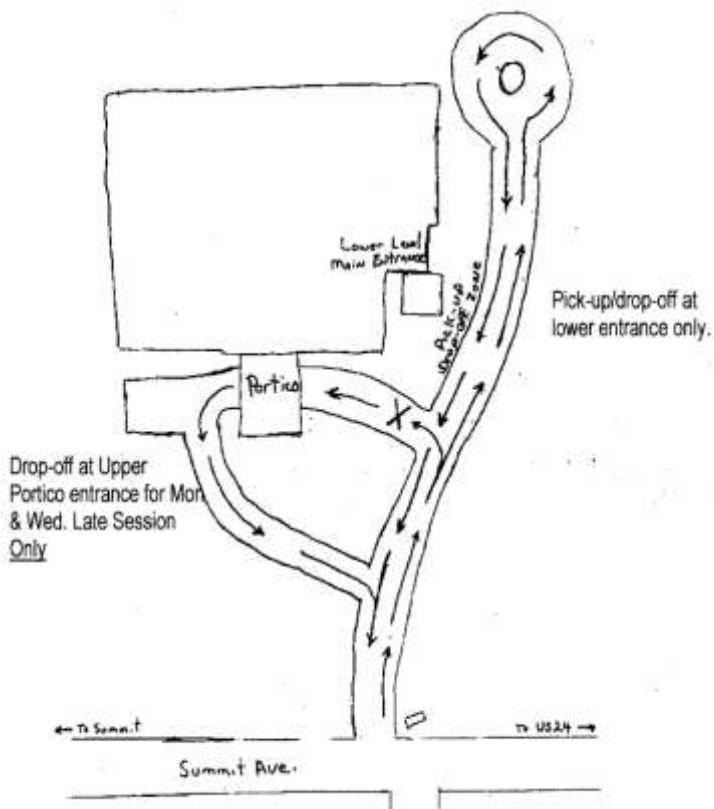
3. All arrival and dismissal will take place at the Main Temple Entranceway (at the lower level on the side of building,) EXCEPT ARRIVALS FOR WEDNESDAY'S LATE SESSION (5:15pm). Wednesday late session student arrivals can be dropped off at the second level Temple portico entrance, by turning left off the carpool line to enter the front portico area, thus avoiding the 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.

## 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) for each program day during a school year. Grade 4-7 students, who attend 2 days per week should stay under 20% absences for Sundays and 20% absences for Wednesdays. 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 which we use to structure learning in our program. That is why we must insist upon excellence in attendance.

***PLEASE UTILIZE OUR GREAT E-MAIL COMMUNICATION  
TOOL: FROM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER(S) TO YOU***

**PARENTS READ THE CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK REPORT  
THAT WE EMAIL FOLLOWING EACH SESSION OF SCHOOL.**

Following every school session, every K-7 Sunday, Monday and Wednesday teacher's description of what was accomplished in class that session and what was assigned for homework is posted. This report enables parents to keep abreast of what their child is learning and doing and what homework the class has been assigned to complete.

- ***If your grade 3-7 child is absent, you must read your child's class work/homework report and help your child to complete the work. Following an absence, your child is required to give each teacher make-up work.***
- ***Students who are excessively absent or are consistently negligent in completing make-up assignments, will be required to complete an additional independent study packet as prescribed by the classroom teacher and the Director of Education. Please help your child to stay current with their learning assignments.***

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. Thank you.

## **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 oversees the following service attendance requirements for Religious School students. Attendance at 7 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 REQUIREMENT**

7 services per school year, including a minimum of 3 Shabbat Services (Friday evening service or Saturday morning Sharing Shabbat service) per year.

**NEW THIS YEAR, THE GRADE 6 WORSHIP SERVICE REQUIREMENT MUST INCLUDE 3 SATURDAY MORNING “SHARING SHABBAT” SERVICES, 8:30-10:00AM.**

All services attended by students in **Grades 3-6** must take place at Temple Sinai. In addition to the required 3 Friday Shabbat Services in grades 3-5 and the Grade 6, Saturday Sharing Shabbat services, students may include any of the following services:

- Friday evening Shabbat services (7:30pm), minimum of 3, Gr 3-5
- Sharing Shabbat services (8:30am Saturday), minimum of 3, Gr 6
- 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)
- Summer services (Friday evening or Saturday morning)

For Required Worship Services Please Note:

1. Grade 3-6 parents will receive periodic service attendance updates during the school year from the office of Executive Director, Dr. Patrick Jobe.
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 14 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 grade 2-7 children.

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 of our students share the benefits of new friendships.**

This year our 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 special activities (fun!) and food, to be planned by parents. In the fall you will receive reminder notices for the program.

### Grade 2-7 Social Event Schedule

- 2 & 3 Monday, November 14, 5:00-6:00PM (dinner included)
- 4 & 5 Sunday, January 8, 10:00-11:30AM (brunch included)
- 6 & 7 Sunday, January 22, 1:00-2:30PM (lunch included)

**Communication is our Cornerstone!**  
**FIRST DAY ORIENTATION**  
**WITH PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS**

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**

This year our September 11 & 12 opening days provide an opportunity for parents to visit each child's teacher in the classroom, while students have an assembly, followed by students with teachers and parents with the Director of Education. Parents should plan to stay for the full 2 hour session on the first Sunday and Monday.

Grades K, 1, 4 & 5      Sunday, September 11, 8:30AM-10:30AM

Grade 6                      Sunday, September 11, 11AM-1PM

Grade 7                      Sunday, September 11, 11:00-1:00PM

*Grade 7 Parents and Students will participate together in a special Curricular Orientation to introduce the Philosophical Inquiry with Bible curriculum.*

Grade 2 & 3                      Monday, September 12, Parents at 5PM

*Our grade 2 & 3 children will be with their teacher from 3:45-5:00. At 5:00 the parents are invited to a classroom orientation with the teacher, while students enjoy a musical assembly.*

**B'mitzvotav Orientation: All Grade 6 Parents & Students: Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5:30-6:30PM**

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 6<sup>th</sup> graders and the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Prayer Curriculum**.

# TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 2011-2012 CALENDAR

## K-12 2011-2012 Closings and Vacations

September 28.....	Erev Rosh Hashanah
October 9 & 10.....	Post Yom Kippur Break
October 12.....	Erev Sukkot Service, 7PM
October 19.....	Simchat Torah Service, Consecration, 7PM
October 31.....	Professional Development Day
November 13.....	Professional Development Day; NJEA Weekend
November 23 & 27.....	Thanksgiving
December 25-January 2.....	Winter Break (resumes Jan. 4)
January 15 & 16.....	M.L. King Day
February 19, 20, 22 & 26.....	President's Week Break (resumes Feb. 27)
March 7.....	Purim Service
April 8, 9, 11 & 15.....	Spring Break/Passover (resumes April 16)

## School Days – Days we DO have Session

### Sunday: Grades K, 1, 4 - 7

September 11, 18, 25  
October 2, 16, 23, 30  
November 6, 20  
December 4, 11, 18  
January 8, 22, 29  
February 5, 12  
March 4, 11, 18, 25  
April 1, 22, 29  
May 6, 13, 20

### Wednesday: Grades 4-7

September 14, 21  
October 5, 26  
November 2, 9, 16, 30  
December 7, 14, 21  
January 4, 11, 18, 25  
February 1, 8, 15, 29  
March 14, 21, 28  
April 4, 18, 25  
May 2, 9, 16

### Monday: Grades 2 & 3

September 12, 19, 26  
October 3, 17, 24  
November 7, 14, 21, 28  
December 5, 12, 19  
January 9, 23, 30  
February 6, 13, 27  
March 5, 12, 19, 26  
April 2, 16, 23, 30  
May 7, 14

### High School: Grades 8-12

September 11, 18, 25  
October 2, 16, 23, 30  
November 6, 20  
December 4, 11, 18  
January 8, 22, 29  
February 5, 12  
March 4, 11, 18, 25  
April 1, 22, 29  
May 6, 13, 20

### SAVE GRADE 2&3 SUNDAY DATES:

**Nov. 6; Dec. 18; Feb. 5; March 25; May 20**

## 2011-2012 SPECIAL DATES and PROGRAMS

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

**\*\*Indicates Parents Attend with Child**

### Special Dates: Kindergarten & Grade 1

September	11	1 <sup>ST</sup> Session with Parent-Teacher Orientation, 8:30A.M.**
	23	Tot Shabbat (6PM) & Shabbat Family Service, 7:30PM**
	29	Rosh Hashanah Youth Program, 9A.M
October	8	Yom Kippur Youth Program, 9AM.
	12	Sukkot Service, 7PM**
	19	K & 1 Perform at Simchat Torah Service, 7PM** Consecration Ceremony for all new TSRS students, 7PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6PM K/1 Israeli Dance Rehearsal</li> <li>• 6:30 Consecration Rehearsal, all new students</li> </ul>
	30	“Jump Through Hoops for the Homeless,” Warm Clothing Drive Begins
November	4	K & 1 Lead Prayers at 7:30PM Shabbat Family Service**
December	9	Chanukah Shabbat Family Service, 7:30PM**
	16	Tot Shabbat Service (6-6:30PM)**
	18	Chanukah Family Festival, 8:30-10:30** Jonathan Geffner, Ventriloquist; Tikkun Olam Activities; Latkes & Dreidels
January	27	Tot Shabbat Service (6PM)** Shabbat Family Service (7:30PM)**
	February	10
March		2
	7	Purim Megillah Service! 7:00PM**
	11	Purim Carnival! Regular Class, 8:30; Parents join students at 9:50** for Carnival, 10AM-12Noon; Costumes!!
	14	Religious School 2012-2013 Registration Begins ( <a href="http://www.templestinainj.org">www.templestinainj.org</a> )
April	1	K & 1 Passover Family Program, 8:30-10:30AM**
	4	TSRS 2012-2013 Registration Due Date
May	4	TSRS Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service; Student Performance, 7:30PM**
	20	Final Sunday is <b>Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day</b> ; All TSRS families to participate in activities to benefit others, Start time: 8:30AM**

## **Special Dates: Grades 2 & 3**

September	12	First Session, with Parent-Teacher classroom meeting, 5:00-5:45PM**
	23	Tot Shabbat (6PM) ** Shabbat Family Service (7:30PM) **
	29	Rosh Hashanah Youth Program, 9A.M
October	8	Yom Kippur Youth Program, Main Service, 9AM; Youth Program 9:45AM
	12	Sukkot Service, Grade 3 Leads Service on Bimah Rehearsal 6PM; Service, 7PM**
	19	Gr. 2 & 3 Perform at Simchat Torah Service, 7PM, Consecration Ceremony for new TSRS students, 7PM** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6PM Gr. 2 &amp; 3 Israeli Dance Rehearsal</li> <li>• 6:30 Consecration Rehearsal, all new students</li> </ul>
November	6	SUNDAY, Grade 3 Family Program, 11AM-12:30PM
	7	“Jump Through Hoops for the Homeless,” Warm Clothing Drive Begins
	14	Grade 2 & 3 Social Event: Regular Class, 3:45-5:00; Dinner/Games, 5-6PM
	20	SUNDAY, Grade 2 Family Program, 11AM – 12:30PM
December	9	Chanukah Shabbat Family Service, 7:30PM
	18	SUNDAY, K-5 Chanukah Family Festival, 8:30-10:30AM
January	30	Grade 3 Hebrew Name Unit Begins
February	10	Grade 2 & 3 Lead Shabbat Prayers on Bimah, 6:30 Rehearsal; 7:30 Service
March	7	Temple Sinai Purim Megillah Service, 7PM
	11	Sunday Purim Carnival, 10AM – 12 NOON – COSTUMES! PRIZES!
	14	Religious School 2012-2013 Registration Begins ( <a href="http://www.templestinainj.org">www.templestinainj.org</a> )
	25	Grade 3 Family Hebrew Naming Service, 9:15-10:30AM (Students wear Hebrew name T-Shirts & bracelets)
April	4	TSRS 2012-2013 Registration Due Date
May	4	TSRS Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat Service, with Student Performance, 7:30PM**
	14	Final Class Session
	20	Sunday, Temple Sinai Family Mitzvah Day

## Special Dates: Grade 4 & 5

September	11	First Session, with Parent-Teacher Classroom Orientation, 8:30AM
	14	Wednesday Hebrew First Session
	18	Grade 5, 6, 7 Independent Study Orientation, 8:30-10AM for registered Independent Study Students Only
	29	Rosh Hashanah Youth Program, 9AM
October	2	Grade 4 Family Program, Watchung Reservation, 8:30-10:15AM
	12	Sukkot Service, 7PM
	16	Grade 4-6 Temple Sinai Family Field Trip to Jewish NY, courtesy of Jack Rossen Lifelong Learning Grant, First come, First served.
	19	Grade 4 & 5 Perform at Simchat Torah Service, 7PM, Consecration Ceremony for all new students, 7PM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:00 Gr. 4 &amp; 5 Rehearsal</li> <li>• 6:30 Consecration Rehearsal, all new students</li> </ul>
	30	“Jump Through Hoops for the Homeless,” Warm Clothing Drive Begins
November	20	Grade 5 Field Trip, Tenement Museum & Lower East Side Tour, 8:30-2:30
December	9	Chanukah Shabbat Family Service, 7:30PM
	18	Grade K-5 Chanukah Family Festival, 8:30-10:30AM
January	8	Grade 4 & 5 Social Event, 10:00-11:30AM
	27	Grade 4 Shabbat Service: 6:30 Rehearsal; 7:30 Service
February	5	Grade 5 Family Program, 8:30-10:30AM
March	2	Grade 5 Shabbat Service; 6:30 Rehearsal; 7:30 Service
	7	Purim Megillah Service, 7PM
	11	Purim Carnival, 10AM – 12 NOON – COSTUMES! PRIZES!
	14	Religious School 2012-2013 Registration Begins ( <a href="http://www.templestinainj.org">www.templestinainj.org</a> )
April	1	Donut Sale Fundraiser for Grade 12 Graduation, \$1=1donut
	4	2012-2013 TSRS Registration Due Date
May	4	Teacher & Madrichim Shabbat Appreciation Service with Student Performance, 7:30PM
	20	Final Sunday is <b>Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day</b> ; All TSRS families to participate in activities to benefit others, Start time: 8:30AM**

## Special Dates: Grade 6 & 7

September	11	Grade 6, First Session with Parent-Teacher Classroom Orientation, 11-1:00
	11	Grade 7, first session is Parent/Student Program for the grade 7 "Philosophy with Bible" Curriculum, 11-1:00
	14	First Session Wednesday Hebrew School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>All Grade 6 Students with Parent attend 5:30-6:30 B'mitzvotav Orientation</u> (no regular early/late class for grade 6 students)</li> <li>• Grade 7 students have regular early and late session classes</li> </ul>
	18	Grade 5-7 Independent Study Orientation, 8:30-10AM For registered Independent Study Students Only
	29	Grade 6&7 Students attend Adult Rosh Hashanah Services
October	2	Grade 6 Ellis Island Field Trip, 8:15AM-2:15PM
	12	Sukkot Service, 7PM
	16	Grade 4-6 Temple Sinai Family Field Trip to Jewish NY, courtesy of Jack Rossen Lifelong Learning Grant First come, First served.
	19	Simchat Torah Service, 7PM
	30	Grade 6 B'mitzvotav Car Wash, 1:15PM, Summit 1st Aid "Jump through Hoops for the Homeless" Warm Clothing Drive Begins
December	4	Grade 6 B'mitzvotav Warm Clothing Sort, 1:15PM
	9	Grade 6 Shabbat Service; Students lead prayers at 7:30 Family Chanukah Service
January	22	Grade 6 & 7 Social Event, 1-2:30PM
February	5 or 12	Grade 7 Trip, NYC Heritage Museum, final date TBA
March	4	Grade 7 joins with the high school
	7	Purim Megillah Service, 7PM
	11	10:00-11:55 Purim Carnival, All Grades 12:00- 1:00 Regular Class, Grades 6 & 7
	14	Religious School 2012-2013 Registration Begins ( <a href="http://www.templestinainj.org">www.templestinainj.org</a> )
	April	1
	4	2012-2013 TSRS Registration Due Date
	22	Grade 7 Parents join students for Holocaust Survivor Program, 11-1
May	4	Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Service with Student Performance, 7:30
	6	Grade 7 Parents & students, Grade 12 Graduation, 11-12
	20	Final Sunday is <b>Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day</b> ; All TSRS families to participate in activities to benefit others

## Special Dates: Temple Sinai High School, Grades 8-12

September	11	First Session with Semester 1 Elective Selection 8:30AM, Sunday Madrichim Orientation
	18	Elective Classes Begin
October	2	After core class, 12:30 participation in T.J. Martell Walkathon encouraged
	22 or 29	Confirmation Social Action: Children's Specialized Hospital, Date TBA (2 <sup>nd</sup> Confirmation Social Action Event/Date TBA)
November	6	Grade 12 begins Graduation Preparation
	10 & 11	Rabbi Gershon's College Caravan Trip
January	7& 8	Confirmation Class Trip to NYC
	15	Second Semester Electives Begin
	29	Grade 10 & 12 Parent Organizational Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:00 Grade 10 Confirmation Planning Meeting</li> <li>• 12:00 Grade 12 Graduation Planning Meeting</li> </ul>
February	5	High School Film Forum
March	10	High School Sets Up Purim Carnival, 6-9PM
	11	Purim Carnival, High School Students Report 8:30AM to prepare/operate Carnival booths, for Carnival, 10:00-12 Noon
	14	2011-2013 TSRS Registration Period Begins
	18	Wed. Confirmation Rehearsal with clergy, 7:30PM
	25	Wed. Confirmation Rehearsal #2, 7:30PM
April	1	Grade 12 Donut Sale Graduation Fundraiser, 8AM
	16	Grade 10 Confirmation RSVP & Fees Due Date Grade 12 Graduation RSVP & Fees Due Date
	22	Parents invited to join students for Holocaust Survivor Speaker, 11AM
May	1	Grade 12 Graduation Rehearsal, 6:30PM (pizza/rehearsal)
	6	Grade 12 Graduation, Students Arrive 9:15AM; Graduation 11:00AM
	19	Grade 10 Confirmation Service, Students Arrive Service 10:30AM
9:00;	20	Final Sunday is <b>Temple Sinai Mitzvah Day</b> ; All TSRS families to participate in activities to benefit others

## **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.

**KIDS HELPING KIDS is our social action theme for this year.**

Our students’ tzedakah monetary contributions and our age-appropriate accompanying Jewish values education will be geared to benefit children in our community. We will be raising money to support the work of the HAPI (happy) Foundation. The HAPI Foundation is a grassroots organization created in 2002 by a group of friends in N.J. to promote the health and well-being of disadvantaged N.J. children, many of whom live in residential, therapeutic homes. Our contributions will help to provide improvements to the therapeutic home environment; will help to send children/teens to therapeutic summer camp programs; will provide birthday gifts and cakes for children who would otherwise not have a birthday celebration.

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 these worthwhile campaigns.

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 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 prayer 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 Tenement Museum and a guided tour of the Lower East Side.

### **Grade Six**

Pirke Avot: Ethics of the Fathers (Values to Live By); History: What has enabled the Jews to survive? 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Judaism, 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. The curriculum was written specifically for Temple Sinai 7<sup>th</sup> graders by the Melton Center for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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 class periods:

1. The Life Cycle of a Jew; Current World Issues through the lens of Judaism; and Social Justice.
2. Hebrew prayer for Bar/Bat Mitzvah fluency will be studied September through January. Modern, spoken Hebrew language, along with cultural issues of modern Israel will be the focus for our February through May curriculum.

### **The B’nei Mitzvah Curriculum**

The B’nei Mitzvah Program is coordinated through the offices of the Rabbi and Cantor. Approximately seven 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 and Social Action events are 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 Aaron Liebman, 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.

Randy Ring, Instructor

**Sample High School Elective Courses:**

Women in the Bible

Jewish Mindfulness, Meditation and Yoga

Israel through Contemporary Lyrics

Jewish Values through Theater Games

Anti-Semitism

Jewish Ethical Dilemmas for Teens

Message of the Prophets

Current Issues and Debate

Personal Body Ethics

Jewish afterlife, angels and demons

**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) your child's homework assignment. Please help your child to complete missed assignments.

**Assessment--Report Cards:** Your K-7 child's academic performance, effort and achievement will be valued and assessed by their teachers in January and May. We encourage and assess your child's level of involvement with the learning process, including commitment to peers by cooperating in 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](mailto: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. 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.

***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.templesinainj.org](http://www.templesinainj.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 (908-273-4921 X14) 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](mailto: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 directed 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 3-6 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.

***Homework E-mail, Every Session:*** Following each school session, every parent will receive a summary of what was taught in class and what was prescribed for homework. This enables you to discuss Judaic/Hebraic topics with your child. When your child is absent, s/he is responsible to complete any missed work. Please refer to the teacher's email to be sure your child completes missed work when absent. This is a great tool—please utilize it!

***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; Special Social Events, Family Programs, Teacher & Madrichim Appreciation Shabbat; Consecration; B'Mitzvotav Orientation; B'nei Mitzvah Meeting; Confirmation; Graduation and special Temple Sinai programs.

***Registration:*** Registration packets will be on the temple website, [www.templestinainj.org](http://www.templestinainj.org), each 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 join this committee and/or to contact the religious school chairperson and/or the V.P. of Education from the Temple Executive Board.

**Chairperson:** Joanne Rosenberg  
(973) 635-2685  
[Chair-RSCommittee@templesinainj.org](mailto:Chair-RSCommittee@templesinainj.org)

**V.P. of Education:** Kenneth Gelman  
(908) 273-8557  
[VP-Education@templesinainj.org](mailto:VP-Education@templesinainj.org)

***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 throughout the year. 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

208 Summit Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901  
(908) 273-3617  
[www.templestinainj.org](http://www.templestinainj.org)

**Director of Education**

Patti Kahn

[Patti@templestinainj.org](mailto:Patti@templestinainj.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

[Heidi@templestinainj.org](mailto:Heidi@templestinainj.org)

**Vice-President of Education**

Kenneth Gelman

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**Chair, Religious School Committee**

Joanne Rosenberg

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