

TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

TIRS / TI HIGH

Parent Handbook 2020

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Temple Israel



Jewish Life Happens Here

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK 5780

Welcome to Temple Israel Religious School. TIRS is Ottawa's premier center for Jewish learning from birth through Grade 12. Your child is part of a positive and interactive learning environment that partners with other Ottawa Jewish organizations to create the best possible Jewish education we can offer, using the most up-to-date resources for student-centered lessons and experiences. We provide a strong Jewish identity through Jewish values and ethics, Torah and Prophets, T'fillah (prayer), Holidays, Music, Israel and Hebrew.

We benefit from Jewish Federation of Ottawa in several ways one of which is through a partnership with Einat Hagalil Democratic School on Kibbutz Amir. Morah Jenny is our lead teacher on behalf of our Grades 5 and 6 classes. We are very proud to be the only supplementary school in Canada that has a partner school in this program. Our students are excited to both send and receive mail from their Israeli pen pals. This partnership has truly advanced the notion of Klal Yisrael (unity of the Jewish people) for our students.

Programming for families, children and youth continues this school year with Jewish holiday and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) themes. We invite families with young children to monthly programs like TOTally Shabbat (4th Friday), JBaby Shabbat Play Group (2nd Shabbat) and JBaby Oneg Shabbat at Hillel Lodge (1st Friday). In addition, our youth and their families help to serve dinner at "In From The Cold."

JYG (Junior Youth Group) for grades 5/6 - 8 is run by Morah Ranit who provides 2-3 JYG programs like Dungeons & Dragons (4th Sunday) and JBotics (2nd Wednesday - thanks to a microgrant received from Jewish Federation of Ottawa). We have also enjoyed Harry Potter Trivia, movies and skating on the canal.

For our high school students, we have FROSTY (Federation of Reform Ottawa Senior Temple Youth) who travel with their Advisor, to other camps and cities within the North East Lakes region of NFTY as well as local programming. Sometimes, TIRS, JYG and FROSTY get together for "ALL YOUTH" (Grades 6-12) programs such as for Tu Bishvat & Chocolate Seders.

NEW!! This year, we are offering a certificate program for our Madrichim (High School/University student TAs). Facilitated by Morah Karli, this program will teach our madrichim how they can better serve the teachers and students with whom they work.

I am always open to receive feedback as we work together to ensure success for our children in a safe, inviting, inclusive, and engaging school.

Sue Potechin,
TIRS Principal

**Please note that TIRS is a Kosher style, nut free environment.
Several students have life-threatening allergies.**

FACULTY, ETC:

Grade	Day	Arrival and Dismissal
JK – Grade 6	Sundays	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Grades 7 – 10	Mondays	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Grades 2 - 6	Wednesdays	4:30 – 6:00 pm

Introducing our 5780 team of Teachers:

Sue Potechin	Principal	tirs@templeisraelottawa.ca
Karli Speevak	Gan Yeladim (Pre-K, JK, SK - Sun)	karlispervak@gmail.com
Maya Ruckenstein	Gr. 1 (Sun)	ruckenstein.maya@gmail.com
Ranit Braun	Gr. 2 (Sun/Wed) & Gr. 8 (Mon)	ranitb@hotmail.com
Josh Saslove	Gr. 3 (Sun/Wed)	joshalslove@live.ca
Elya Segal	Gr. 4 (Sun/Wed)	elya.segal@gmail.com
Sigal Baray	Gr. 5 (Sun/Wed)	sigalbaray@gmail.com
Jenny Burns	Grades 6 (Sun/Wed) & 7 (Mon)	jltburns@hotmail.com
Michael Parkin	Grades 9 & 10 (Mon)	parkin.michael@gmail.com
Larry Tarof	Music (Sun)	pianoman@dr-l-music.com
Shai Sagi	ShinShinit	shaikatzsagi@gmail.com

And our Madrichim:

- ❖ **Sundays:** Sara Bier (Gr. 2) Alexa Leitman (Gr. 4 & 5), Gregory Peng (Gr. 3 & 6), Elana Rogoff (Gr. 2), Morgan Shusterman (Gan), and Sarah Stern (Gan)
- ❖ **Wednesdays:** Jazz Rosenberg and Eve Haras

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

In Case of Fire:

If the fire bell sounds, teachers and students line up in an orderly fashion, close windows, doors and proceed quickly to the assigned exits. Our meeting spot is at the far end of the parking lot.

Office, JK/SK and Grades 4, 6 and 7 - Main stairs

Grades 2, 5, 8 and Washrooms - Back stairs to kitchen

Grades 1, 3, 9 and 10 - Back door to parking lot

Please send indoor shoes or slippers during the winter months. We ask that boots be left on the carpets provided. In case of fire, all students and staff must be wearing footwear.

Lockdown:

In case there is a need, our teachers have been taught the procedure for protecting your children. Teachers are assigned to pull the 3 stairwell doors closed as they are locked on the outside. This allows us to leave safely in case of fire, but to be secure inside the confines of the basement. The safety and security of your children is an important ongoing discussion on improvements.

Snow Day Cancellation Procedure:

1. A notice of cancellation will be sent out by email to all families.
 2. Cancellation announcements will be placed on the TIRS Facebook page and Temple Israel website and on Twitter.
- ❖ **Sundays:** If there is a snowfall Saturday night or early Sunday morning, you will be notified of cancellation by 7:00 am on Sunday.
 - ❖ **Mondays and Wednesdays:** You will be notified of cancellation by 1:00 pm that day.

Arrival & Dismissal

Please enter and exit the school through the back door, off the Temple parking lot. Parents should accompany their children to and from school. Please notify your child's teacher at the beginning of class if there is to be an early departure.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

"Hafsakah" (Recess): Please send a snack to school with your children. Hafsakah is also a time to socialize. Weather permitting, outdoor recess will be scheduled.

Homework: Homework is usually only assigned for the purpose of reinforcing and reviewing skills learned. TIRS students are encouraged to practice reading at home 10 – 15 minutes per day.

Attendance: Regular attendance at TIRS will help your child to take advantage of our unique learning environment. We have only a few precious hours to impart an entire heritage as well as another language. We, at TIRS, do our best to provide a stimulating Jewish curriculum to capture your child's interest and encourage his/her involvement in Jewish life.

Parent-Teacher Contact: Please free to contact your child's teacher or the Principal if you have any questions or concerns or to let us know how happy your child is in our program! Please see contact information (p. 2) for our faculty emails.

Respect for our surroundings: We expect all students to demonstrate 'kavod' (honour) for their surroundings, themselves, and with each other through their behavior and interactions. Temple Israel belongs to all of us.

TIRS – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: JK – GRADE 6

Students enjoy preparing for holidays, learning about Israel and the Hebrew language, engaging in bible stories and the weekly Torah portion, and practicing t'fillot (prayers). Music is a highlight of Sunday mornings. Each class participates in a Friday night service, linking students to community and their TIRS family, while putting their learning into action regardless of the family's affiliation.

Textbooks and Resources for Grades 1 – 6: TIRS uses a variety of resources for teaching Hebrew, Jewish History, Israel, Jewish Ethics and Values, Lifecycle, Torah, etc. New texts are added yearly in keeping with our promise to have the most up-to-date materials for our students, teachers and parents.

Aleph Bet Quest
Shalom Aleph Bet Pre-Primer
Shalom Ivrit – Welcome to Modern Hebrew
Hebrew In Harmony
Let's Talk Now! Hebrew for Teens
Kol Israel – Prayers of Our People
Making T'fillah
The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail
Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays
Jewish Holidays Jewish Values
Living Jewish Values

Friends Across the Sea
The Book of Jewish Life
Israel Repairing the World
Our Place in the Universe
Our Land of Israel
Min Ha'aretz – Making Meaning from our Food
Parasha Plays
The Explorer's Bible
Parashat Hashavua - Reading Genesis
Parashat Hashavua - Exodus to Deuteronomy

In addition, we use the Union for Reform Judaism's CHAI Curriculum which is designed to facilitate lifelong Jewish learning in Reform congregations. It is designed for religious school students in Grades 1 – 7 with a focus on Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Chai curriculum lessons aim to nurture "enduring understandings," and values that have lifetime meaning for all Jews.

TI HIGH GRADES 7 - 12

TI HIGH curriculum includes life cycle, understanding the greater Jewish community through tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) projects and field trips to places like the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank and "In From the Cold" at Parkdale United Church.

Grade 7 B'nai Mitzvah Year: "Me, My Judaism, My Community"

Our year will be broken up into 3 focus areas of study:

1. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Boot Camp: A great opportunity for students to sharpen their understanding of the deeper meaning of the synagogue service.
2. Holocaust: An in-depth study of the Holocaust.
3. Jewish Identity - Seventh grade is often a time of searching for self-understanding. We will explore what becoming a Jewish adult really means.

Grades 8 for 5779:

The Grade 8 program is designed to be interactive and engaging, providing many Jewish experiences. Students will participate in project-based units on Jews of the Diaspora, Jewish life and Jewish role models, Historical Jewish Ottawa, Modern Jewish History and the Shoa, as well as being part of Temple Israel's Caring Community. The students will participate in field trips to discover a variety of Jewish organizations in the Ottawa area and will participate in tzedakah / tikun olam (charity and repairing the world) programs.

Grade 9 and Confirmation (Gr. 10):

This year will be an incredible opportunity you will not want to miss! We promise a very special year of Jewish experience and learning. This year's book review will be Maus (Volume 2) as well as excerpts from I Am Jewish. Students will explore issues that are important to them in search of their Jewish Identity. Insights from Jewish tradition will be examined and ideas will be freely exchanged on topics of ethics, social media, relationships and so much more!

Starting in January 2020, Grade 10 students will begin working with Rabbi Mikelberg on introspection and religious identity, speeches and their Torah readings in preparation for the **Confirmation Service (Friday, May 29, 2020)**.

