

# TIRS

Temple Israel Religious School

## PARENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023



## Rabbis Message

Dynamic, inclusive, inspiring, creative, fun... these are the terms that come to mind as I think of Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS). In many ways, TIRS is viewed by our Temple community as a crown jewel, one of our proudest aspects of Temple Israel.

We pride ourselves in being a home away from home for our young people, a place to ask big questions, build trusting relationships and live Judaism in exciting ways. As Reform Jews, we approach Judaism by honoring our tradition and at the same time grounding ourselves in modernity. Both qualities are highlighted at TIRS. We do our best to impart knowledge with interactive activities that push our students to grow in a variety of ways. A number of our teachers were also once TIRS students, demonstrating the care that we impart on the community, passing values down from generation to generation.

We recognize at TIRS that it's tough raising Jewish families, sometimes we feel as if we don't have the tools to confidently guide our students. We're here to help as best we can along the way. Representing the Temple at large, let me share that it's a privilege to welcome you to the Temple family and I look forward to getting to know you better. My door is always open, and whether we're discussing the school or an upcoming simcha or just navigating Jewish journeys, let's chat!

Rabbi Daniel Mikelberg



## Introduction

This manual is designed to encourage your input and participation in our program by sharing with you our goals, and the steps we plan to take to meet them. We hope to provide your family with the tools to live Jewishly in the 21st century. Temple Israel Religious School (TIRS) is part of Temple Israel of Ottawa, Ottawa's only Reform Synagogue. TIRS utilizes the positive and inclusive ideology of the Union of Reform Judaism in educating your child. Using a fresh and positive approach and lots of enthusiasm as we help our young people explore their Jewish identity. The goal of TIRS is to deepen Jewish experiences and strengthen our children's understanding of Judaism, inclusivity, involvement in the synagogue, and participation in Jewish life and the global community.

## Who We Are!

### Staff 2022-2023

*Co-Principals: Dovi Chein & Ranit Braun*

**Gan** (Jr-Sr kinder): TBD

**Kita Gimmel/Daled** ( Gr. ¾): Eve Harris,

**Kita Vav** (Gr.6) Dovi Chein

**Grade 8** Emily Litvack

**Kita Aleph/Bet** ( Gr 1/2): Maya Ruckenstein

**Kita Hey** (Gr. 5): Emily Litvack

**Grade 7** David Osterer

**Grade 9/10** TBD

### Education & Youth Committee

#### **Committee Chairs:**

*Cathy Armstrong & Jasmine Albagli*

Mitch Leitman, Micha Garten, Aviva Stewart,  
Mindy Siche, Seline Herz-Fischler  
Lisa Rosen, Brad Koskie, Sarah Burns

## School Days & Calendar

Our school year calendar which lists dates on which there will be no Hebrew School classes, Chagim, School Wide and Community Programming has been inserted into this manual. Please remove it and place it somewhere you can easily refer to it during the year. This year we are offering a In-Person or Virtual Hebrew Option. Students can be registered in either IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL NOT BOTH.

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
Grades Gan-Grade 6	High School Grades 7-10 Grades 2-6	Grades 2- 6
9:30am-12:30pm	IN-PERSON HEBREW OPTION Grades 2-6 5:30-6:45  Gr. 7-10 6:30pm-8:30pm	VIRTUAL HEBREW OPTION 4:30pm-6:00pm

## Confidential Information

In order for our teachers to provide an inclusive and meaningful learning environment for your child, any information such as IEP (Independent Education Plan), OT(Occupational Therapy) diagnosis (Autism Spectrum, ADHD, LD ) or any Neuro Divergence reports can aid a teacher in planning instruction for each child. Any information or reports can be emailed directly to TIRS, alternatively a paper copy to the office and teachers, or by private conference with the principal/teacher. Please know that all conversation and correspondence will remain confidential.

## Parent/School Communication

Communication between parents and school is vital and necessary to ensure that parents are aware of the goings on at School. We have so many wonderful experiences, we do not want the parents to miss out. Our weekly Friday communication will offer updates and notices about school happenings as well as with the larger Temple community and the Ottawa Jewish community. If parents have any general concerns or questions regarding their child's class, we encourage parents to reach out to their child's teacher as a touch point.

## Behavioral Expectations

At TIRS we strive to create an atmosphere that reflects our Jewish values. We take pride in our student body that understands the importance of respect for teachers, respect for each other and each other's property, and respect for ourselves are essential for a successful learning environment. Our school has zero tolerance for bullying of any kind (physical, verbal or cyber/digital). Problematic behavior will be addressed accordingly, with conference and communication between parents educators and principal(s). In the instance where behavior becomes problematic, a conference with parents, teachers and principal will be called. If problematic behavior is noticed or reported teachers, principals and parents will work in concert to help ensure everyone is safe and respected.

## TIRS Commandments of Kindness & Respect

1. Every student to treat fellow students and staff members with respect
2. We are a LGBTQ+ Space, we welcome everyone and respect the pronouns and/or names chosen by individuals.
3. Hands Off Rule, we use words to address conflict, and our hands for High Fives, then we sanitize ( COVID-19)
4. No name calling or demeaning language. We strive to use language that expresses our feelings in a respectful way.
5. Acknowledging that learning happens in many different ways, we respect other students' ways of learning and encourage others to join in the experience.
6. Books and materials are to be treated respectfully and with care.
7. Our building is our extended home, let's keep it clean and a space we can be proud of.
8. We are a NUT-FREE space.
9. Electronic Devices are fun; we do however ask that electronic devices are left at home unless required for a specific learning task.
10. We love to have fun, but we do so in a safe way. Please be careful and stay safe while you play

## Parent's Responsibilities

1. Class begins at 9:30am Sunday mornings and ends at 12:30pm. Please arrive promptly so your child doesn't miss out on any fun. We ask that parents of students in Gan-Grade 2 please go to their classrooms to pick them up.
2. Please notify the school in advance if someone besides a parent/guardian is picking up your child. Please make every effort to consistently attend classes.
3. Please notify the office if your child will be late or absent. [tirs@templeisraelottawa.com](mailto:tirs@templeisraelottawa.com) or 613-224-3133.
4. Please provide your child with a nut free snack for school.
5. We are outside for snack break and class time when appropriate. Please be sure to send your child with appropriate outdoor clothing. In the wintertime we do not go outside for break unless a teacher specifies.
6. If your child's teacher reaches out to you to discuss a class event, project or your child's progress or a incident please do your best to respond promptly
7. If your child has a life threatening allergy please be sure to provide the office and teacher with any additional information or medical intervention ( EPI-PEN)
8. Please drive carefully as you enter the Temple's parking lot and do not stop in front of the school door to let your child off, please pull further ahead to avoid any accidents.
9. Please refrain from parking in the upstairs Hellenic Center parking lot, unless indicated in the weekly communication.

## Hebrew School Responsibilities

1. Provide a safe, positive, and warm environment for your child.
2. Provide your child the knowledge of Torah, Mitzvot, Tikkun Olam, Jewish Holidays, Jewish History, Jewish Heroes and Heroines.
3. Keep you informed of your child's progress and class activities.
4. Provide your child with the textbooks and materials needed for class.
5. To provide your family with opportunities to learn experience and enjoy our Temple family and Jewish values.
6. Provide students with material to work on at home with their families when requested.
7. Ensure timely correspondence and regular communication with families.
8. Provide students with COVID-19 PPE (masks, face shields) as long as Temple Israel's masking policy is in place.
9. Encourage full participation, foster love of Hebrew

## Supplies

- Students in Grades 1-Grade 7 will be provided with Textbooks. Hebrew textbooks are for students to keep and write in. Other textbooks will be used in class and returned at the end of the year .
- Pencils, paper, crayons and all other regular classroom supplies will be provided by the school .

## Take Home Work

While we do not assign “homework” at Temple, we do send home exercises and lessons to be shared with the family. We encourage families to do some learning together in their home to reinforce what we are learning at school. If at any time students or families would like additional exercises or lessons, please let your students' teachers know and they will be happy to send home more material.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial in accomplishing the goals of our educational program. We do understand that attendance is not always an option due to illness or travel.

## Illness

If your child has symptoms such as a runny nose or sore throat, fever or diarrhea they should not attend school. All public health guidelines apply to TIRS as well.

## First Aid

A number of our teachers are First Aid Certified. First aid kits are located in the school office and in the upstairs kitchen. Please note that we cannot administer any medication, topical or otherwise without medical consent.

## School Records

Please notify the school promptly, in writing, of any change in address, telephone number, as well as any change regarding emergency situations. Promptness and accuracy are necessary to keep records up to date and to communicate with the home when necessary.

## Refund Policy

Please reach out to TIRS administration.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COVID POLICIES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST 2022, BEFORE THE START OF THE SCHOOL.